



DEVOTIONS

RED CYCLE NORTH CAROLINA EDITION 2024

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INTRODUCTION

BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS

RED CYCLE



Never underestimate the power of family sharing God's Word together. Our prayer is that families will connect and dig into God's Word together. Truthfully, a parent or grandparent spending a few minutes sharing God's Word together speaks louder and deeper in a child's heart than the most elaborate, amazing lesson any teacher in a class could do. Family devotion is not about teaching an amazing lesson. It is about connecting as a family and showing that your family prioritizes God's Word. The power of the family devotion is in the *relationship* you have with each other. God reminds us of this power and responsibility in Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

Bible Drill Leader, we hope this resource will be useful to you in helping families connect with what you are doing in Bible Drill class, learn along together with you, and continue learning at home. We are giving you a devotion for each Key Passage and verse in the Red Cycle. At the top of each verse page, all three versions (KJV, CSB, ESV) of the verse are listed. When you send this out to parents, make sure you use one with only your version OR that you make sure your parents know which version you want them to learn.

Some ways you could use this resource:

Each week send your families (by email or by giving out a hard copy or both) the verse(s) and Key Passage you introduce in class that week. Families could be doing family devotions on the same things you taught in class and learn the verse and Key Passage together that week. This email or copy could also serve as a reminder of what the students should be working on at home during the week.

Example of email you could send each week to parents: (You could then attach the Family Devotion for the verse and Key Passage or just copy them straight into the email.)

Hey Awesome Bible Drill Parents!

We had a great time in class this week! This week we went over the books of the Law: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. Try to drill your driller on these books this week. We also introduced the verse Genesis 1:27 and the Key Passage: The Creation. Attached you will find a devotion on Genesis 1:27 and The Creation. Take some time this week to do these two devotions as a family.

Challenge each other to learn the verse and find the Key Passage together.

Have a wonderful week! We can't wait to see your child in class next week.

*Love in Christ,
Jane Smith*

Other options for using this resource:

Make a booklet with all the verses and Key Passages and send it home with families. You could then send an email or note each week letting families know which verse and Key Passage you did that week.

You could put the booklet together in the order they are on the verse card (which is how they are ordered here) OR put them in the order in which you will teach them. Perhaps make a content page with your schedule to go in the front. There is a wonderful example schedule for you on the alsbom.org website. Providing a schedule for parents would also serve as a way for them to keep track of what you are doing in class in case they miss a week.

The more you can involve families, the more the kids are going to learn. And what a life changing thing for families to do together!!!

In Year-Round Bible Drill/Discipleship Class, the devotions can be used as classroom lessons. This gives you, the Bible Drill Leader, a great opportunity to teach more than memorization of the verses and Key Passages. You have time to teach how the verse or Key Passages apply to the driller's life.

For additional free resources to support Bible Drill, go to www.ncbibleddrill.org, visit our facebook page at NC Bible Drill or contact Deborah Robson, state Bible Drill consultant at drobson@ncbaptist.org.

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KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

1. The Creation

Genesis 1-2:3

Key Verse/s: *Genesis 1:31 "God saw everything He had made and it was very good." Genesis 2:3 "God blessed the seventh day and made it special because on that day He rested from his work."*

UNDERSTANDING ACTIVITY: *Place a few peanuts, grapes and/or an apple, and a slice of bread (cut in half) on the table. Say, "We are going to make a peanut and jelly sandwich. Do you want grape or apple jelly with your peanut butter?" Distribute the peanuts and apple or grapes as requested. When it is pointed out that you do not make a PB&J sandwich that way, discuss the fact that from the peanuts you make peanut butter (set a jar on the table), and from the apple you make apple jelly, and from the grapes you make grape jelly (set out a jar of jelly). At this time make a half PB&J sandwich for each person. For us to make something, we have to start with something that already exists. We take peanuts to make peanut butter, etc. We cannot even come close to what GOD can do. He starts with nothing and just speaks and whatever He wants is made.)*

If someone were to say to you that the world was made from a "Big Bang", you could tell them that the creation of the world is even more unbelievable than that. Instead of a lot of things coming together and then BANG the sun, moon, stars, water, plants, animals and people appear, there was an organized plan and it was made by someone, it didn't just happen. That someone is God and He did it by "just speaking" or "commanding" everything into being. Wow, instead of taking His hands and making something He just said, "Let there be...." and it was made.

If you were to make something you would have to begin with something that already exists. You would have to use your hands. God did not have to start with something. He made everything from what? From nothing.

God just spoke and it was made – the sun, moon, stars, earth, and people. After God made each part of the world He said it was "good". Read the key passage to see how many times God said, "it was good". Then after He made everything he said, "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

In Genesis 2:2 and 3 it says that after God finished His work He rested and made that DAY, the seventh day, special. Throughout the Bible God has a lot to say about that seventh day. In the Ten Commandments He says, "Remember the seventh and keep it holy".

That means He did not just say we should rest and worship on the Sabbath, HE EMPHASISED IT BY GIVING IT AS A COMMANDMENT.

Later there is a place in the Bible where God is very upset with His people and one of the things he says, in addition to they are cruel to others, is that they are not remembering the Sabbath and keeping it holy.

A lot of people, sometimes even us, do not look at Sunday as a day that is to be special for rest and worship and yet it must be important to do since God spoke of it so often from the start of the Bible to the end.

Memory help: *We know that the creation has to be in Genesis, and to remember what verses just think, 'For God it was as easy as 1, 2, 3. The key passage, "The Creation" is in found in Genesis 1-2:3*



KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

2. The Israelites Leave Egypt

Exodus 12:37-42

Key Verse/s: *KJV Exodus 12:40 “Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.”*

As you read this key passage look for these words: *600,000 *Sojourning *430 years *Much observed

Six hundred thousand is the number of men (not including their wives and children) who left Egypt. How many people do you think you could lead anywhere? Have you been to Atlanta, Georgia? That is a big place. The population of Atlanta is about 473,000 and that does include the women and children. So, we still do not have 600,000 yet. If you got all the people in Atlanta to follow you to Birmingham, took all those people and went to Montgomery, and then to Mobile to get all the people in those cities, you still would not have the number of people – men, women, and children – who left Egypt under Moses’ leadership.

How can someone lead that many anywhere? No cell phone, no walkie talkies (two-way radios). How did Moses do it? He could not – only God could do that. During the day God led His people with a pillar (a long, tall) cloud, and at night with a pillar of fire. Remember God can do what seems to be impossible. Following these incredible sights let them know that God was always with them, guiding them to the Promised Land. What do you have today that guides you anytime you need guidance? (ans. The Bible). Just as the Israelites looked to the pillars of cloud and fire, we can look to God’s Word day and night to know He is with us, helping us through life.

Verse 40 says they sojourned in Egypt for 430 years. Sojourning means they were just passing through. They did not belong there. Compare that to Hebrews 11:13. When you become a Christian you are just passing through earth – maybe for eighty or ninety years, maybe for fifteen years. You do not belong here. Your home is heaven (the Promised Land).

After 430 years in Egypt they went to the Promised Land. By the way, do you know why they were in Egypt? That is the story of Joseph found in Genesis chapters 37 and 43.

The last two words, “much observed” means they are to remember the day that God saved them from Pharaoh and the Egyptian meanness and began to take them to the Promised Land. Maybe we should do a better job of remembering the day we asked God to save us and accept His promise to take us to the Promised Land – Heaven.

Memory help: *The Israelites were exiting Egypt, so this key passage has to be in what book? _____ That is correct, in Exodus. And, all twelve tribes left so does that give you a clue?*



KEY PASSAGES

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3. A Prayer for Forgiveness

Psalm 51

Key Verse/s: ESV

Psalm 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:16-17 *For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

This key passage about forgiveness was written by King David. David said he was a man after God's own heart. But as much as he loved God, he would slip and sin. David wrote this after he SINNED in a big way. He broke commandment 10, then commandment 7, and then commandment 6. (If you want to read about King David's sins read 2 Samuel 11.)

A prophet named Nathan was sent by God to speak to David about his sin. God told Nathan to tell David a story about a rich man taking away from a poor man the only little lamb the poor man had. Here is the story (Found in 2 Samuel 12.)

A rich man and a poor man lived in the same town. ² The rich man owned a lot of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had only one little lamb that he had bought and raised. The lamb became a pet for him and his children. He even let it eat from his plate and drink from his cup and sleep on his lap. The lamb was like one of his own children. ⁴ One day someone came to visit the rich man, but the rich man didn't want to kill any of his own sheep or cattle and serve it to the visitor. So, he stole the poor man's little lamb and served it instead. ⁵ David was furious with the rich man and said to Nathan, "I swear by the living LORD that the man who did this deserves to die! ⁶ And because he didn't have any pity on the poor man, he will have to pay four times what the lamb was worth." ⁷ Then Nathan told David: You are that rich man!

What David had done was a lot worse than taking a lamb, but Nathan got the point across without making David angry by coming straight out and telling David what he had done wrong. We all could learn something from that round about story technique. David was sorry and this Psalm (Psalm 51) is David's confession and repentance prayer to God. Reading the Psalm, we learn:

- Even though we sin against someone else, really all sin is against God. **In verse 4 David says, "You are really the one I sinned against."**
- Once we take responsibility for our sin and confess it, we need a clean heart. We need a start over. **In verse 10 David said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."**

- In the Old Testament days when someone asked for forgiveness they offered a sacrifice. David tells us in verses 16 & 17 that God does not want a sacrifice that one can touch and see. David says God wants: **“Offerings and sacrifices are not what you want. The way to please you is to feel sorrow deep in our hearts. This is the kind of sacrifice you won’t refuse.”**

Memory help: *If you make a 51 on a test you had better pray for forgiveness. Psalm 51 is “A Prayer for Forgiveness”.*



KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

4. The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17

Key Verse/s: Matthew 3:17

CSB And a voice from heaven said: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”

KJV And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

ESV And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

How do you think you would feel if you walked into a church or down to the creek bank or river to watch the baptism of some people you know, and then a man you didn’t know walked up to the preacher, talked to him, and then the man was baptized? That would be a little unusual. But then you heard a voice that seemed to come from nowhere and it said, (*If you are reading this to someone, say the following words in a loud, deep voice. Say it suddenly where it sounds scary.*)

“Behold this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.

Now that would be scary! What would you do? I think I would duck to the ground as if I expected something to fly down toward me. I might even faint. But then I would realize that the voice from nowhere was probably connected to what had just happen in the water. “Who was that?” “What just happened?” “What did that voice say?” At that point would there be any doubt in your mind that Jesus is the Son of God?

Another interesting thing about this passage is the discussion between John and Jesus about who should baptize whom. Jesus won the argument. Why in the world would Jesus need to be baptized? Do you think this is another one of those times when Jesus is teaching something? It was! You might say baptism is not important and that just what is in your heart is important. Jesus is showing that it should be done.

On the other hand, baptism is not so important that it saves you. It is not that important. Mainly it shows that you are willing to stand up for your beliefs and are willing to let everyone know it. If someone could only be saved if they are baptized, then you would expect that Jesus would have baptized people; but in John 4:1-2 it says, “Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John – although in fact **it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples**”.

One last lesson to learn from this key passage is to notice where it comes in Jesus’ life. It is important that it comes before what happens in Matthew chapter 4. In Matthew 4 Jesus is tempted by the devil. Have you ever heard someone say that after they get their life straightened out they will become a Christian or they say they aren’t good enough yet? Jesus showed that we are to decide to give God our life, let

Him take control, and then He will help us withstand the devil's temptations. Do not try to withstand the devil on your own.

Memory help: *Jesus was born in Matthew 1, He grew up in Matthew 2, and He was baptized in Matthew 3. And He took an unlucky situation -13- and turned it into something good. Matthew 3:13-17.*



KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

5. The Model Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

Key Verse/s: Memorize vv. 9b-13

The Model Prayer tells us how God would like us to pray. Before Jesus teaches the prayer he says that we should keep our prayers simple. Jesus also mentions that we shouldn't "show off" when we pray. He said this to the people that used to stand on the street corners praying so that everyone would see how "great" they were. God wants us to be sincere and not copying what others say.

This is how Jesus told us we should pray:

Our Father which art in heaven: God likes it when we call him father and he wants us to talk to him like we talk to a parent. God is our loving father and we are his special children.

Hallowed be Thy name: Even though God wants us to call him our father, he is still God, He is special. We need to be respectful. This says we want God to help us honor His name. We should not use the word "God" in swearing or cursing, or in any disrespectful way.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven: This means we are praying that people now would live in peace and love with one another the way it is in heaven. It reminds us that we should be living the way God wants us to everyday. We do not have to wait until we get to heaven to be in God's kingdom, His Kingdom starts when we become a Christian.

Give us this day our daily bread: This means we should depend on God to take care of our needs. That means we do not have to "watch out for ourselves", we should do good and give to others, and let God take care of us.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors: *In a more modern way of saying this we would say forgive us for doing wrong as we forgive others for doing wrong.* We are asking for forgiveness for our mistakes. But we also need to forgive people who have done wrong to us. Jesus had more to say about this in vv. 14-15. If we forgive others, God will forgive us. If we do not, then God will not forgive us. IMPORTANT to know!

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: We are continually tempted to do or say things that hurt others and not godly. This part of the prayer is really neat because it asks God to help us to know the right thing to do. To protect us against the evil that is in the world and keep us away from it.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen: This part of the prayer says you recognize that EVERYTHING belongs to God. We understand that what we have belongs to God, and not to us, and even the power that people have is according to what God gives. God also has all the power and all the glory FOREVER!

Memory help: Continuing on with our story of where the “Baptism of Jesus” is Jesus was baptized in chapter 3, tempted in 4, and then preached the “Sermon on The Mount” (a Key Passage for another year) in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. In the middle of his sermon, just like a bunch of students, his disciples interrupted him and asked him to teach them how to pray. So, if the “Sermon on the Mount” is 5, 6, and 7 then the middle would be what? Chapter 6. So, “The Model Prayer” is in Matthew 6. It starts in verse 5 and goes to verse 15 (which is one five and that equals 6.)



KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

6. The Great Commandments

Mark 12:28-34

Key Verse/s: *KJV Mark 12:30-31 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

This Key Passage may have the most important verse in the Bible in it. The words of verse 30, or words very close to it are found more times in the Bible than any other verse. You really should memorize that verse, don't you think? One of the places is in the Old Testament where Moses tells the Israelites that God has commanded him to tell them that these words should be remember and taken with them into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 6 Sounds like this is an important verse! Moses said God commanded him to tell them these words as a way to have a "perfect" relationship with God. These words are also found in the book of Luke. In Luke 10:25 the question is asked by a man, "what must I do to have eternal life?" The answer is the same words that Moses said, the same words that are in this Key Passage as the answer to which is the greatest commandments, and the same words found in several other places in the Bible. So, if you memorize this verse and someone wants to know how to be saved, what can you say to them?

What if someone believed strongly in obeying the Ten Commandments and you asked them to tell you the most important commandment. You could tell that you know what the most important commandment is. Tell them that in Mark 12:28-34 Jesus is asked by a teacher of the Law (the Ten Commandments & Old Testament) to tell them what the most important commandment is. Jesus answered, "... you have only one Lord and God. You must love Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And the second most important commandment says: "Love others as much as you love yourself. No other commandment is more important that these."

Now that you have memorized Mark 12:30-31, think a little deeper into what each part means.

What does it mean to love God with:

- ♥ "all your Heart" – That means with all that you feel. God is number one in your heart; and mom, dad, boyfriend, girlfriend, everybody else comes second.
- ♥ "all your Soul" – That means with all that you are.
- ♥ "all your Mind" – That means with all that you think. Think about how you can love God. You can say you do but until you show love to others God does not feel or see it.
- ♥ "all your Strength" – That means with all that you do.

Memory help: Mark the ten and add two. That means Mark how many? 12 I do not have good way to remember where. Just say Mark 12:28-34 fast, again and again, Mark 12:28-34, Mark 12:28-34, Mark 12:28-34, Mark 12:28-34, Mark:12 28-34, Mark 12:28-34, Mark 12:28-34. Maybe it will stick.



KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

7. The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Key Verse/s: **KJV Luke 2:4** *And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David).*

Mary and Joseph lived in a little town called Nazareth when they met and made a promise to marry one another. But Jesus was born in Bethlehem, seventy to eighty miles away. Today it is not usual for us to be born in the city where the hospital is thirty to fifty miles away. But in Jesus' day mothers didn't travel to hospitals, their baby was born at home.

So why did they go to Bethlehem? One reason is because about seven hundred and fifty years before, the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2) predicted that Jesus the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Do you think Jesus' mother, Mary, read that and said she needed to go to Bethlehem? Of course not! So how did it happen this way and thus fulfill a prophesy that was written over 700 years before? The easy answer would be because God arranged for it to happen. Yes, He did. But let's not just lightly say that.

At the right time, in the right place God shows His control of what happens on earth by working things out where Mary would be in Bethlehem. It looks like this came true because Joseph and Mary's great ancestor, King David, was from Bethlehem, and they had to go where their ancestors lived to register with the government. A census (counting and information gathering of the people) was announced and since they did not have computers to put information together the government required everyone to go back to the hometown of their family. This made it easier to keep up with where everyone was and making sure the information was accurate. Just before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem and everything falls into place.

The birth of Jesus is also in Matthew 1:18-25. Matthew tells about the wise men visiting Jesus; and Luke tells about the shepherds visiting while Jesus was a newborn baby laying in a manger.

You know that there are several 'descriptive' names for Jesus in the Bible. He is called Emmanuel, the Messiah, the Christ, the Son of Man. One of the names He is called is the 'Prince of Peace'. This story of the "The Birth of Jesus" helps us understand that name. Think about the words, "Peace be with you" or "Don't be

afraid". Historians tell us that Jesus was born when there was peace in that country. When the angels appeared to the shepherds they told them not to be afraid

Memory help: Although "The Birth of Jesus" is in Matthew, it is in Luke TOO. So, we are going to use the story in Luke TWO. The story we use at Christmas is the one in Luke TWO. And to remember 1-7, Jesus is the 1 person who can make everything complete. In seven days, God completed the creation. Luke 2:1-7



KEY PASSAGES BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

8. The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Key Verse/s: **CSB Luke 15:21** *“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I’m no longer worthy to be called your son.’”*

The big lesson here is: “Once you decide that you want to be part of God’s family and love Him with all your heart, with all your soul, with all you mind, and with all your strength, if there comes a time that you decide to be selfish, it does not matter what you do, God wants you back in that close family relationship, and will welcome you back.”

[UNDERSTANDING ACTIVITY: Make two index cards for each person present for the devotion. Cut one into a circle (a rough-cut circle is fine) and write on it “Selfish”. On a second card draw a U-turn arrow and write, “Repent” across the arrow.]

This is called Parable. A “Parable” is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Let’s see if we can see what the heavenly meaning is.

Listen for words that show selfishness. Also listen for words that show repentance. Repentance is turning away from our sin. This is a story about sin and repentance and how God responds to our repentance.

As we read the story listen for two little words that the son says that really give away where his heart is. Tell me when you hear them. (Read vv. 11 & 12)

He says, “Give me.” This tells us that he made his decision out of his own selfish heart. **“Give me”** is what this son chose to live by. Listen to what happens to him. Do you want to live by “Give Me”?

The next part of the son’s selfishness is he gets as far as he can from the influence of his father by saying, “I want what you can give me, but I don’t want you.” People often have that attitude toward God. “I want God’s blessing, but I don’t want to be near God.” It also says he wasted his inheritance on prodigal or wasteful living.

“Wasted” is a sad word. Have you ever looked back and said, “That was a wasted hour” or “That was a wasted day?” Don’t make it a wasted life.

(Read vv. 13 & 14)

Next we will hear a little more about the son’s wasted live and then something different happens. Tell me when you hear the boy repent. (Read vv. 15 – 21) What does repent mean? Does he turn away from his sin? If you want to repent, could you say the same words?

As we read the last part of the parable I am going to read one verse twice. (Read vv. 22-24. Read v. 24 twice.) [Reading vv. 25-32 is optional. Read if time permits and interest is high.]

Check to see that everyone understands what repent means and then play “It shows...” It shows selfishness or it shows repentance. As you read a statement each participant can hold up the card that matches the statement.

- 1) Give me that candy!
- 2) I want to be first.
- 3) I'll take that hat; you can take the other one.
- 4) I did the wrong thing, please forgive me.
- 5) How does God know what's best for me?
- 6) May I please have another chance?
- 7) But I can't do the dishes. I'll miss my favorite show!
- 8) Can I please repay you?
- 9) I hope I never hurt your feelings again, I'm sorry.
- 10) I don't care!

Memory help: What is the story about? Do you know the name of the boy? It was Luke. Well, not really. And how old was he? 15 Doesn't that sound just like a fifteen-year-old?



KEY PASSAGES

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9. The Comfort Chapter

John 14

Key Verse/s: *NIV John 14:6* Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Do you like to work your way through a maze? Maybe a wall maze, or a corn maze. Or maybe just a maze puzzle on a piece of paper? A good walk through maze can become frightening if you keep coming to a dead end. You have turned this way and that way, but you realize all the ways you thought were the correct ways were wrong. You may even have to ask someone who knows the way out to lead you. The object of a maze is to find the path from the starting point to the finish. There are many paths, but there is only one path which leads to the finish. It can also be frustrating when every turn seems to lead us down the wrong path.

That must have been how the disciples felt in John 14, The Comfort Chapter. The disciples had been listening to Jesus talk about he was going to leave them. He was trying to prepare them for the time when he would no longer be with them. Jesus said, "Don't worry," I will come back and take you with me. (That is comforting!) Then Jesus "threw them a curve ball" as the saying goes. He said, "You know the way to where I am going." Don't you just love what Thomas said next? Thomas said, "Lord we don't even know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Just like being lost in a maze and you need someone to show you the way, Jesus said follow me, I am the only one who can show you the way. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Where is Jesus saying he is the way? To heaven.

Sometimes life can be very confusing, and we don't know where to turn or what path to take.

It seems that every path we take leads to a dead end. When that happens, we just need to remember that if we will keep our eyes on Jesus and follow his teaching, we will find the path to our goal – eternal life in Heaven with him. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus because he knows the way. Follow him, he is the only way from this maze of life to heaven.



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10. The Christian's Armor

Ephesians 6:10-20

Key Verse/s: *ESV* Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

If you put on armor that can be seen you might be protected from a knife or sword – weapons that can be seen. But the devil does not use weapons that can be seen, he uses tricks that are disguised. Also, do not try to withstand the devil on your own, you need the “strength of the Lord to make you strong” (Ephesians 6:10).

You cannot wait until the last minute to put on the Christian armor because you do not know when the devil will strike. Verse 13 says, “Put on “all the armor that God gives. Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself.” One Bible translation says you will be able to defend yourself from the “fiery darts of the devil”. Putting on armor involves doing it ahead of time. You cannot wait until the devil strikes and then put on the armor. That means you need to prepare now and in all the ways listed. Let’s look at the parts of the armor:

1. Belt of truth
2. Breast plate of righteousness
3. Shoes of preparation of the gospel of peace, the Good News
4. Shield of Faith
5. Helmet of Salvation
6. Sword of God’s Word

Start with telling the truth. The **“Belt of Truth.”** No one can coerce or blackmail you into doing something you don’t want to do. If the fiery dart of, “If you don’t do this I will tell” comes at you, you have nothing to hide because you always tell the truth. That person cannot blackmail you.

Putting on the **“Breastplate of Righteousness”** is a big piece of the armor. Just like the truth, do what is right and the fiery dart of temptation cannot get to you.

Let’s look at the **“Shield of Faith”** next. It is a defensive piece of armor like the breastplate. The shield goes out in front of you. It is your first line of defense. Put the shield of faith between you and evil.

Your faith in God needs to be there before you defend with your truth or your right doing. Never, never, never try to defend yourself from the devil by yourself. Your faith in what God can and will do is the first thing you need. With the faith goes the **“Helmet of Salvation.”** The helmet is of course for the head. It is knowing of what God can do. That means learn from Bible leaders. Also, it is very important that you know that all this armor is for the spiritual body –the soul – and do not be so

concerned with the physical body. God has a purpose for you on earth; but you want to be in heaven.

The other two pieces of armor are offensive. The **“Shoes of preparation of the gospel of peace, the Good News”** and **“Sword of God’s Word.”** Rather

Memory help: *You put armor on your body and there are six pieces of armor to put on. This was written to the church body in Ephesus. Say 10 20 over and out if you know where this key passage is found. Ephesians 6:10-20.*



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

1. Genesis 1:27

KJV - So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them.

CSB – So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

ESV - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

As a family: Read Genesis 1

Try to imagine what it was like before Creation. God was there before creation. He has always been and always will be. God created and declared it was good.

Take a look at verses 26-31. In verse 31, what does God say about His creation on day six? (It was very good.)

This week we are going to memorize Genesis 1:27. Read that verse. Make sure you are reading from the same version your Bible Drill is using. You might want to use your child's drill Bible in devotion time.

According to Genesis 1:27, how are people different than God's other creation? (People were made in the image of God.)

How does the truth that people are made in the image of God change how you see yourself and others?

In verse 27, we also learn that God created people: male and female. God created men and they are wonderfully made in God's image with a special purpose. God created women and they are wonderfully made in God's image with a special purpose.

Sometimes it is easy to look down on the other gender as it is different than us. (Especially as kiddos - "Girls Rules, Boys Drool," etc.) But God created each person, each gender wonderfully.

Memorize Genesis 1:27 this week. Each day say it and remind yourself of the truth.

Family challenge: This week find a way to remind each family member they are special. Leave a note on their pillow - "I'm glad God created you" or just give them a hug and tell them you are glad God created them. Be mindful of what you say about others (boys/girls) and remind yourself that EVERY person was made in God's image.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

2. Leviticus 22:31

KJV - Therefore shall ye keep my commandments and do them: I *am* the LORD.

CSB – “You are to keep my commands and do them; I am the LORD.”

ESV - So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD.

Ask your family: How would you describe God? Make a list of the words to describe God.

What does God deserve from us? Make a list of what your family thinks God deserves from us.

God deserves so much from us. God deserves our respect and obedience. God deserves this because of who He is. He is the ultimate authority. His commands are to bring us closer to Him and to live the wonderful life plans He has for us.

As a family read Leviticus 22:31-33

What do these verses tell us about God?

What does it tell us about how we should treat God?

Why should we keep God's commandments?

Do you have rules at school? Discuss the rules you have at school.

Do you have rules at work?

Do you have rules as a family? Make a list of what you think your family rules are.

There are rules in life. Some are to keep you safe. Some are to make sure everyone is respected.

What is a command? Try to come up with a definition as a family. You could even look up the dictionary definition.

God's Commands are important. He created us and knows us. He knows we need boundaries and guidance in our lives. This week we are learning the verse Leviticus 22:31. This verse is a wonderful reminder of the respect God deserves. Make sure you are memorizing the verse in the version your Bible Driller is using. You might want to use your child's drill Bible during devotion time. What are some of the commands God has given us? How do we know what His commands are? We need to study His Word. Then, we need to obey his commands.

Family Activity: Have one family member write this week's verse on a piece of paper. On this paper, have everyone write or draw pictures to illustrate some of the commands God has given us. Display this paper somewhere that you can see it all week.



VERSE BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

3. Deuteronomy 6:5

KJV - And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

CSB - “Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

ESV - “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Did you know that this may be the most important verse in the Bible? Why? For one reason the same words or a verse very close to saying the same is found more times in the Bible than any other verse. Must be very important, wouldn't you say? Another reason is it tells you how to have a “perfect” relationship with God. And a third reason, which is the most important reason of all, is it tells you how you can get to heaven! How to be SAVED!

You know the story of the “Good Samaritan”, don't you? You thought it was about helping your neighbor, didn't you? The story is found in Luke 10:25-37. Read verse 25 to see the real reason why Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. What is the question that was asked? “_____”

Jesus asked the teacher to tell Him what the scripture says is the answer to the question of what a person should do to have eternal life. The answer is almost the same words as found in Deuteronomy 6:5, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind.’ And then he added, ‘Love your neighbors as much as you love yourself.’”

If someone should ask you, “How can I have eternal life?” or “How can I be saved?” you can answer, “Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

You can also find the verse in Mark 12: 28-34 where Jesus was asked, “What is the most important commandment?” He answered, “You must love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. ‘The second most important commandment says: ‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’ No other commandment is more important than these.”

To love God with all your:
Heart – means with all that you feel
Soul – means with all that you are
Mind – means with all that you think
Strength – means with all that you do

Memory Help: ‘Do this’ (Love the Lord your God with...) and you shall live! ‘Do this’ sounds like Deuteronomy.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

4. 1 Chronicles 16:8

KJV - Give thanks unto the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.

CSB - Give thanks to the LORD; call on is name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples.

ESV - Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

Background: This is a little background to what is happening in this passage. You do not need to read all the noted scriptures. This is just for your reference to understand the context of the passage and verse. (If your kids do not know a lot about the Ark of the Covenant, it would make a great study as a family. You can search online for articles about the Ark and look up scripture as a family. It is a beautiful study.) The Ark of the Covenant was a beautiful, important part of worship for the Israelites. The construction of the Ark is commanded by God to Moses. (Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9). The Ark was a box with the dimensions of two-and-a-half cubits in length, by one-and-a-half cubits in height, by one-and-a-half cubits in width (a cubit is about 18 inches). It was constructed of acacia wood, and was plated with pure gold, inside and out. On the bottom of the box, four gold rings were attached, through which two poles were put. The family of Kohath, of the tribe of Levi, would carry the ark on their shoulders using these poles. The Ark was the manifestation of God's physical presence on earth. At the time this passage was written, the Ark of the Covenant had not been in Jerusalem. It had been captured by the Philistines in a battle with Israel, but the Philistines gave it back after seven months as it caused them problems (1 Samuel 4-6). When David became king, one of his first acts was to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 13-16 and in 2 Samuel 6). David desired to bring the Ark back and bring back proper worship.

As a family:

Read Chapter 15-16:6 to read about the excitement and worship of bringing the Ark back to Jerusalem. Starting in chapter 16:7-36 is a psalm of praise to God.

This week, we are memorizing 1 Chronicles 16:8. (Make sure you are memorizing the verse in the version your Bible Drill is using. You might want to use your child's drill Bible in devotion time.) There are 3 parts to this verse: give thanks to God, call on his name, and proclaim/make known his deeds.

As a family, discuss what you have to be thankful to God for. Discuss the things he has done. God deserves our praise. He has done amazing things in our lives. How can we as a family live out this verse? How can we let our world know what God has done?

Family Activity: Write your own psalm of praise (or rap of praise) OR make a praise bucket. Place a basket or bucket on your table or in your family room with some slips of paper and pen. Everyday write one thing you praise God for on a slip of paper and place it in the basket. After a week or so, read them as a family.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

5. Job 37:14

KJV - Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

CSB - Listen to this, Job. Stop and consider God's wonders.

ESV - "Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God."

Job was a man who loved God. In the book of Job, we see that Job has to go through some awful and sad things in his life. Throughout all his loss, He continues to love God and trust Him.

Read Job 37. As you read, anyone can shout out STOP when they hear something amazing about what God has done . . . and then name what the amazing thing is. (OR, have everyone draw a stop sign on a card and hold it up each time they hear something amazing God has done.)

Now reread Job 37:14. Why do you think we picked this for a Bible Drill verse? Do you think people today need to be reminded to stop and think about God? Why or why not?

This week we are memorizing Job 37:14. (Make sure you are memorizing the verse in the version your Bible Driller is using. You might want to use your child's drill Bible in devotion time.)

Job was going through a really rough time. Sometimes when we are going through tough times, we feel alone. Sometimes, we can only see the bad going on in our lives. It is good to be reminded to STOP and remember how Amazing God is and what wonderful things He can do. Sometimes we also become busy in life. Sometimes we need to stop and make sure we are focusing on God.

Family Challenge: Go on a praise drive. Get in the car and drive around your neighborhood. Whenever you come to a stop sign, someone in the car should say something wonderful God has done. For extra crazy fun, let that person then choose which direction you go. Continue on your crazy praise journey. Maybe even "Stop Praise" through a drive-thru for a treat.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

6. Psalm 19:14

KJV - Let the word of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

CSB - **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.**

ESV - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Needs to be prepped In advance: Fill two balloons – one with air, and one with water.

Family Activity: Bring the two balloons you prepared to your devotion time. Ask the family to guess, without touching, what is inside the balloon. They probably can guess but what is the only way to know for sure? To put pressure on and pop it. When you apply pressure to the balloon *whatever is in it comes out*. If you put water in, water would come out. If you put shaving cream in, shaving cream would come out. If you put air in, air would come out.

Our life is like that too. When we are pressured and pushed, whatever we have been filling our hearts with, will come out. If you are watching movies with lots of anger and bad words, you might be surprised to see that pop out of your mouth at a stressful time. So, we need to be careful what we allow into our hearts. Everything we spend time doing, watching, listening to needs to be something that would honor God.

Read Psalm 19:14 as a family.

What does this verse mean to you?

How can we do a better job as a family to help each other live this verse?

This week we are memorizing Psalm 19:14. (Make sure you are memorizing the verse in the version your Bible Drill is using. You might want to use your child's drill Bible in devotion time.)

Family activity: Write this week's verse on a card and put it by the TV or by the computer or on the mirror in your bathroom.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

7. Psalm 54:2

KJV - Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

CSB – God, hear my prayer; listen to the words from my mouth.

ESV – O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

Have you ever felt like you were not being listened to or heard or understood?
Share about a time when you felt unheard?

It is very frustrating when someone will not listen to you. It can make you feel like they do not care or that you are not important. And, if you are really in need of help, it can be scary if you feel you are not being heard.

In this Psalm, the writer is David. He is crying out to God. His enemies are after him. Perhaps he is scared. He is crying out to God asking God to hear his prayer. David knows God always hears our prayers. He prays knowing God will listen and hear him and take care of him.

What a wonderful truth to know that God always hears us! GOD – the creator of all, knows you, cares for you and hears you when you pray.

If you ever feel like you are not being heard, remember that God always listens. He will hear you and understand what you are trying to say. He loves you and will protect you and comfort you and listen.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

8. Psalm 145:9

KJV - The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

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

ESV - The LORD is good to all and his mercy is over all that he made.

Psalm 145 is a beautiful praise of God written by David.

Read Psalm 145 as a family.

What stands out to you in this Psalm?

Read Psalm 145:9 again.

This week we are going to memorize Psalm 145:9. Why do you think this verse was chosen as a Bible Drill verse? How will this verse help us?

I love this reminder that God is good to ALL. NOT God is good to some OR God is good to those who are good. God is good to ALL.

And that He has mercy on everyone. What is mercy? Mercy is kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly, OR when you don't get punished for something you should be punished for. WOW! Mercy is a powerful thing. We don't deserve God's mercy and goodness, but He gives it anyway. (Share a time when you experienced mercy from someone.)

Sometimes as people, that is hard for us to remember. God is good to ALL. That includes you and me. Even when we don't feel worthy, it is so wonderful to know God is good to us and has mercy on us.

It is also good to remember that includes *everyone*. We should treat others with love and mercy just as God does.

Family activity: Find a picture of your family. Make a frame to go around it and write Psalm 145:9 OR write the verse on the paper and then have each person in the family sign their name around the verse. Put this up as a reminder of God's goodness and mercy and a reminder of the compassion we should have towards each other.



VERSE BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

9. Proverbs 8:33

KJV - Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

CSB - Listen to instruction and be wise; don't ignore it.

ESV - "Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it."

"I know!" "I don't need your help." "I can do it by myself." "But..."

Look, listen, and learn, the 3L's. Sounds like some great advice, doesn't it? When someone is teaching, focus your attention to them, 'look' and 'listen' to what they are saying, and 'learn'. What a wise thing to do.

God's Word says to listen so that you may learn, and that shows wisdom. Don't set in your mind that you already know what someone is talking about. You may hear a Bible story that you have heard before and say, "I know that story and I know everything about it." But, listen and you will likely learn something new. That is wise. Wisdom is very valuable.

This proverb was written by the wisest mortal man who ever lived, Solomon, so do you think it may be well worth paying attention to. Are you wise enough to do what the wisest person said? In 1 Kings 3:1-15 and 2 Chronicles 1:1-13, the Bible tells the story of Solomon and how God told Solomon that He would give him anything he wanted – riches, or power, or a great kingdom; but Solomon asked for what?

"_____"

The Bible says that Solomon's **wisdom** surpassed the **wisdom** of all the people of the east and all the **wisdom** of Egypt. (For them that meant everywhere.) In 1 Kings 3:16-28 a story is told of how Solomon used his wisdom to make a difficult decision as to who was the real mother of a baby who was claimed by two mothers.

Listen when someone is trying to teach you something and you will gain knowledge. If you do learn to listen to instruction, you are being wise. So, do you want to be wise? How do you get wisdom?

Wisdom is a gift from God. James 1:5 states, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." God blesses us with wisdom in order for us to glorify Him and use the knowledge we have of Him.

Wisdom comes from God and when you are wise, you will listen to the instruction of others.

Memory help. "If you are wise you will not have any problems (Proverbs) and even though you are only eight you seem to have the wisdom of a thirty-three-year-old."



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

10. Proverbs 20:11

KJV - Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

CSB - Even a young man is known by his actions – by whether his behavior is pure and upright.

ESV - Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.

If you read a good mystery book you may not find out who the bad guy is for a long time. You will be impressed by how the writer can hide the true nature of the bad guy until the last moment.

As we grow up we get better about hiding who we are, our feelings, or what we have done; but when we are a very young we do not care about hiding our feelings, or what we have done. We are who we are!

Another way to say Proverbs 20:11 is, “The good and bad that children do shows what they are like.” They are open and straightforward in their actions. They do not conceal or try to trick someone like older children and adults do.

So, observing what someone is like early is a good indication of what they will be later. Watching how someone acts when they think no one is watching them is a true picture of who they really are. Don’t get fooled by what someone says, watch their actions.

There was a lady who seemed very caring; but if you watched her when she was on the telephone you would see her roll her eyes and read things or write something. Was she as caring and concerned as she seemed to be when she was face to face with people?

Are your actions pure? A religious **meaning of pure** is “free from sin”, good or wholesome. If you are pure there is nothing that someone can blame you for. There is nothing that you should be ashamed of.

Are your actions right? There are things that we can say and do that are not wrong, they are ok; but are they the right? Example: There is a boy or girl at your school who has oily hair and some days he or she smells bad. Some of the other kids say, “Ugh, you smell!” You don’t say that, but when you see that he is always sitting alone do you sit near him? That is the RIGHT thing to do. You will probably say. “But I can’t stand the smell. It makes me sick.” There is always a way. Here is a little secret that learned from a mortician. The older man was training a young man to be a mortician and they were on the way to pick up the body of someone who had been

dead for several days. The older man was asked, "How can you do that?" He reached under the seat of his car and pulled out a bottle of Pine Sol. He said, "I put a little of this right under my nose and that is all I smell. But don't tell him (pointing to the young man he was training)." I am not suggesting Pine Sol but try a little perfume or any liquid that you like the smell of and see if you can do the right thing.

Memory help: *It does not matter whether you are twenty or eleven, you will have problems if you do not do what is right. "Problems" sounds like the word Proverbs.*



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

11. Micah 6:8

KJV - He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?

CSB - Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

ESV - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Background: Micah was a prophet in Israel. God's people would bring certain things to the priests of Israel as gifts or "offerings" to God. Sometimes they brought wheat or barley as a thank you to God for all the good things God had given them. Sometimes they brought sheep or bulls when the people wanted to tell God that they were sorry for something they had done. This was an act of worship. In today's reading, the people are asking Micah how much is enough. If one basket of barley is good, would bringing two be better? What did God want or require from them? Micah 6:8 answers this question.

Read Micah 6:8 as a family. This week we are memorizing this verse. (Make sure you are memorizing the verse in the version your Bible Drill is using. You might want to use your child's drill Bible in devotion time.) As God's people, we want to please him with our lives. So, this question, "What does the LORD require of me?" is a good one to ask.

First, God wants us to be just; do justice; to act justly. Does anyone know what being just means? Being just means being fair to everyone; using the same rules for everyone. How would you feel if you went to a friend's house to play a game, but your friend made a rule that he would win if he got 10 points, but you couldn't win unless you got 100 points. You would know that is not fair. It is not just. The first thing God wants from us is to treat every person fairly. Is that easy or hard to do? Why or why not?

The second thing God wants from us is for us to love mercy, or love faithfulness, or love kindness. What is mercy? When was a time you were merciful to some one? How about when someone was merciful to you. God wants us to always be looking for the kind thing we can do. God wants us to love doing kind things.

The third thing is to walk humbly with God. Remember that you belong to God. Remember also that you are not God. You and I don't get to make the rules. We follow God's rules. We don't get to judge whom God loves or doesn't love. That's not

our job. We don't get to decide who deserves help and who doesn't. God wants everyone to be treated kindly. The word "humble" means remembering that we are not God, and we are no better than anyone else. Humble is an attitude of remembering that God is in charge and we serve him. What does it mean to walk with God? How can each of us in this family do a better job of truly walking with God? So based on this verse, can you sum up what God requires of you? God wants us to treat others fairly and with mercy and to live each day walking humbly with God.

Memorizing tip: Memorizing this verse can be difficult. Get three note cards and write out the three things God requires of you. (Make sure you are using the correct Bible Drill version.) Try to say the verse, a phrase at a time as a family until you can all say the verse by memory.



VERSE BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

12. Matthew 5:44

KJV - But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

CSB - “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”

ESV - “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,”

This week we are looking at and learning the verse Matthew 5:44. It is one of those verses that is not very hard to learn but is hard to live.

What is an enemy? See if you can come up with a list of well-known enemies throughout History – fiction or not.

Here are some examples to get you started: (Super Man & Lex Luthor, SpongeBob & Squidward, Hatfields & McCoys, Batman & Joker, Beast & Gaston, Captain America & Red Skull, Peter Pan & Captain Hook, Ariel & Ursula, Harry Potter & Voldemort)

Extra play game: Write the names of some of the enemy pairs your family would know. Then play a game of charades trying to guess them.

Parents: Share the name of someone you consider a friend. Kids: Share the name of someone you consider a friend.

Parents: Share someone you considered an enemy as a child – or now. Kids: share the name of someone you consider an enemy.

What would you do for your friend? Would you pray for them? Would you go out of your way to help them? What about your enemy? Would you help them? Pray for them? Which is harder to do, pray for a friend or an enemy?

In Matthew 5:44, Jesus is teaching us how to treat our enemies. **This week we are memorizing Matthew 5:44.** (Make sure you are memorizing the correct Bible Drill version.)

Take a minute and open your Bible to Matthew 5. Matthew 5-7 is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is teaching the people who are gathered to hear him. Read Matthew 5: 38-48. Do you know what Jesus meant by the Law of Moses? Scriptures – what we know as the Books of Law in the Old Testament also known as the Law of Moses. The Book of the Law tells us to Love your neighbor, but Jesus

asks his followers to go even further and love your enemies too. He reminds us that God loves everyone and as His followers we should too.

Answer these questions as a family:

Is this a hard thing Jesus is asking us to do? Why or why not?

How is it even possible to love your enemy?

Why would Jesus want us to love our enemy?

Have you ever loved an enemy? If so, share about it.

Give everyone a piece of paper. On one side, write the name of an enemy you have. On the other side, write a prayer to God about them. Try to think of a way to show love to them. Have anyone who would like to share what they wrote on their card.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

13. Matthew 21:22

KJV - And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

CSB - “**And if you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.**”

ESV - “And whatever you ask in prayer; you will receive, if you have faith.”

This week we are memorizing Matthew 21:22. (Make sure you are learning your correct Bible Drill version.)

This is a short verse, but it speaks powerfully.

Matthew 21 begins the last week of Jesus' life before he died for us. In this last week, he was continuing to teach his disciples. He had great plans and purpose for them. They would spread the great news of Christ after he ascended into heaven.

As a family read Matthew 21:17-21. Jesus had spent the night just outside Jerusalem and was walking back to Jerusalem. He passed a fig tree that was not producing any fruit. He cursed the tree and it immediately withered. Why do you think Jesus did this? What do you think he was trying to teach his disciples? Possibly, Jesus was trying to show them the seriousness of their coming job.

As Christians, our lives should show Christ. The world is hungry for love and truth. We as Christians have this love and truth and our lives should be ready to share it with others.

The disciples were amazed, once again, with Jesus' power. He wanted them to know that His power is available to them. He wanted them (and us) to know that through faith in Him, we can do amazing things for Christ.

What do you think Matthew 21:22 means? Are you praying with that kind of faith? Tell of a time when you prayed for something with this kind of faith and God answered your prayer.

Challenge your family to have complete faith and to pray with that kind of faith.

Family Activity: Start a prayer journal or basket. Get a basket and some cards or a new notebook. Write Matthew 21:22 on the notebook or on a card tied to the basket. As a family, pray together and write your requests in the book or on a card to place in the basket.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

14. Mark 13:31

KJV - Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away.

CSB - “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

ESV - “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Have you ever noticed the date printed on food containers? Does anyone know what that is called? (An expiration date.) It is helpful to let you know when it might not be safe to eat that food anymore. Take a trip to the fridge or pantry and see if you can find the closest expiration date and the farthest expiration date.

Most things in life have an expiration date. Most all things in life change. Except God. He has, is, and always will be who He is. He always keeps His promises.

This week we are learning Mark 13:31. This verse is another wonderful reminder that, although everything else in life may change, God's Word will never change. His truths and promises are for all time.

Family Activity: Write the verse on a card or on post it notes and place them on things around the house that have an expiration date.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

15. Luke 6:31

KJV - And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

CSB - “**Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them.**”

ESV - “And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”

This verse is called THE GOLDEN RULE. Can you go wrong living your life according to this rule? Before you say or do something can you consider, would I want someone to do this to me?

You can seem to be living by this rule but are really messing it up if you are doing things for other people just so they will do it for you. So, watch yourself.

The thought that is necessary is that I will do good to others and let God take care of me. The key to living by the Golden Rule is to leave out the “I EXPECT.” Now that I have treated you like I want to be treated; I expect.....

It would change the world if everyone lived by the Golden Rule. It is not likely to happen, but if you live by the Golden Rule, and someone watches you and they decide to live by the Golden Rule, and someone watches them and decides to live by the Golden Rule, it could change the world around us.

In other places in the Bible this verse is stated as “Love your neighbor as yourself,” or “Do until others as you would have them do unto you.”

One day a teacher of the law asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment. Jesus answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” Luke 10:27.

It would be good if you learned the Ten Commandments, but, until you do, why don't you concentrate on loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And as you wish others would do to you, do so to them. That sums up what the Ten Commandments are all about and what the prophets tried to explain as to how God wants us to live.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

16. John 8:32

KJV - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

CSB - “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

ESV - “and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

What is the truth?

In school, sometimes there will be a True or False question on a test. Sometimes, teachers will even ask you to tell why it is false, if you think it is false. How do you know if something is true or false?

What is truth? As a family, try to come up with a definition of truth.

This week we are memorizing John 8:32. This is a verse that is easy to memorize but is very deep. In John 8, Jesus was being questioned by some of the Jewish leaders. They did not understand who He really is.

As a family read John 8:31-41. Also, read John 14:5-7. Now go back and reread John 8:32. What do you think Jesus meant when He said, “You will know the truth and the truth will set you free?”

What do you think the “truth” is in this verse? What do you think we are “set free” from?

This verse is so wonderful. There is Truth. We can know Truth. And because we know Jesus, we are free.

Family Activity: Make a verse chain. Take a piece of paper and cut it into 8 - 1/2-inch strips. On each strip write a part of the verse. Example: And you will; know; the truth; and; the truth; will set; you free; John 8:32. Then make a paper chain with the strips. Hang the chain somewhere you will see it all week. It can remind you that Jesus sets of free.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

17. John 15:13

KJV - Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

CSB - **“No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.”**

ESV - “Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

How do you show that you love a friend? You might buy them something special. You are there for them when it seems like everyone else has left them. You buy them an expensive diamond. Well maybe not a diamond; but you wish you could.

We do not see it as often as we used to; but years ago, there were a lot of TV shows and movies where someone in the story gave their life for others. We often hear about someone in the military doing that. It is the ultimate show of love.]

Jesus did that didn't he? You know he did. You know how he suffered rejection by people he wanted to help. He even saw the people who knew him best reject him. That is hard to take, isn't it? Don't you just hate to be rejected by people? That really hurts. But, Jesus suffered pain and then laid down his life for everyone who wants to be his friend – the good, the bad, and the ugly. The next verse, John 15:14 says, “And you are my friends if you obey me.”

Have you ever taken time to really think about what Jesus did for you? He laid down his life for us; but what do you think about saying than even harder than that was Jesus left His home, he left heaven, to come to earth. To make his statement relate to his disciples and us in a human way of thinking Jesus said, “**Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends**”; but if this was written with a deeper thinking we would say, “Greater love hath no one than this that Jesus left heaven to come to earth.”

JESUS LEFT:

- A place where there is no death.
- A place where there is no pain.
- Where there is no Devil and temptation.
- Where there is no darkness.
- Where there is no curse that causes hard work.
- Where there are mansions and feast for all.
- Where there is no fear.
- The place he had lived FOREVER.
- The place where no one cares what is around them because they are focused on God.
- A place where He had it all!

To come to earth to teach us what is important (do we study it) and to die in our place so that we can go to HEAVEN!



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

18. Acts 1:8

KJV - But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

CSB - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ESV - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ACTS is an amazing book of the Bible. It tells how the good news of Christ spread and how the church began. As a family, read Acts 1:1-11. This takes place after Jesus died and rose again. Verse 3 tells us that Jesus spent 40 days on earth after he rose to Life. Look carefully at this passage. These were the last words Jesus spoke on earth before he ascended into Heaven.

If you could choose them, what would your last words be? Last words are something to be listened to.

Look again at what Jesus said. He was reminding His followers of their purpose (to be His witnesses) and encouraging them with the promise that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses.

What is a witness? A witness tells the truth. A witness tells their story of what happened. A witness for Christ tells how Christ changed his life. A witness for Christ shares with others how they too can know Christ as their Savior.

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (city), Judea (the region surrounding the city) and Samaria (the neighboring region where many Jews did not want to go).

So how does this apply to us as Christians today? When you accept Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit who empowers you to be His witness in your world and beyond. Your city, your region, and to all parts of the world.

Make a list of all the "worlds" you family touches. Example (school, work, neighborhood, ball teams, etc.) and discuss how you can be a witness for Christ in each of these places. Then pray as a family that each of you would be a witness for Christ in all your "world".

Memorizing tip: This week we are memorizing Acts 1:8. This is a longer verse. Break the verse into phrases and keep adding a phrase until you can say the whole verse.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

19. Romans 14:12

KJV - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

CSB - So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

ESV - So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans is a letter written from Paul to the church in Rome. The people in Rome were known as Romans like we in America are known as Americans. The church in Rome, like all the New Testament churches, was trying to live for Christ and work together to spread the message of Christ. Like all churches, they had some conflicts.

God spoke through the letters Paul wrote to help teach the church in Rome and to teach us as the church today. In Romans 14, Paul was addressing one of the conflicts they were having.

God gives us specific commands that are obvious to know the right thing to do. There are other things that are not specifically addressed by God. In the church in Rome, there were some people who felt it was wrong to eat certain things and some people who did not. Scripture did not give a clear command on this issue. The people were judging each other.

Paul encourages them to do what is right for them. If they feel it would be disrespectful to eat certain things, they should not do it. But you shouldn't judge someone else who does not feel it is wrong. Do not judge others. You should also be sensitive to others. Parents, you might have an example of this that you could share with your family.

This week we are memorizing the verse: Romans 14:12. This verse reminds us that God is our judge and that each one is responsible for his actions before God.

This truth should affect the way we live. Before we do something, before we make a decision, we should remind ourselves that we will be responsible to God for our actions. This will help us to live for Him. This verse also reminds us that God is the judge NOT us. It is not our job to judge each other but to encourage each other as we all try to live for Christ.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

20. 1 Corinthians 10:31

KJV - Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

CSB - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

ESV - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Why do you do your best at something? Is it to win? To be the best? To be recognized? To gain approval? This passage reminds us that everything we do should be about giving God glory, pointing others to Him. When you live your life that way, you honor God.

In this passage, Paul was writing to the church in Corinth. They were called Corinthians much like we in America are called Americans. Paul was writing to the church to guide them.

In 1 Corinthians 10, the people were struggling over some issues in the church. In their town, there were non-believers who worshipped idols. They even sacrificed meat to these idols. The people in the church wanted to know if it was okay to eat the meat that was sacrificed to idols. Paul told them that worshipping idols was wrong and to stay away from that. Worship God only. He also told them there was nothing wrong with the meat itself. Although it was okay to eat it as it meant nothing to them, it might confuse some new Christians who used to sacrifice meat to idols.

So, in other words, just because it is alright to do something, it doesn't mean that you should. The decision should come down to "Will it point others to God or confuse them?" So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, your actions and motives should be bringing glory to God.

This week are memorizing 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Family Activity: Draw a picture with the verse on it. Around the verse, have each member of the family draw or write the word of something they do in their life to remind them to do it for the glory of God.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

21. 1 Corinthians 14:40

KJV - Let all things be done decently and in order.

CSB - But everything is to be done decently and in order.

ESV - But all things should be done decently and in order.

1 and 2 Corinthians are letters written by Paul to the church in Corinth. Christianity was new and spreading fast. New believers wanted to live for Christ. Paul was writing to them giving them instruction on things they had questions about and things that were reported to him that they needed help with. We, today, as God's church want to live for Christ. We too need instruction on how to work together to be the Church.

In Corinthians 14, Paul was instructing the Christians on worship. The people were trying to worship God but were getting distracted and Paul was trying to help them focus on God during worship.

How would you define worship? Some of the favorite definitions I have heard: Worship is placing your mind's attention and your heart's affection on God, praising Him for who He is and what He has done. Worship is like blowing kisses to God. Worship is our life's work not just a once a week service. See if you as a family can come up with a definition of worship.

While worship is something we do all the time, a worship service is a time when the local body of Christ comes together to praise Him. In the church at Corinth, they were trying to figure out how to be the church. They wanted to worship God and use the gifts He gave them to praise Him and make Him known to others. Their intentions were good. However, they had a hard time working together and appreciating each other. Some were becoming selfish and making the work of the church less about God and more about themselves. This was becoming a distraction in worship.

This is one of the things Paul was addressing in 1 Corinthians. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul tries to help them see how God wants us to work together. Even though God gifted us differently, he intends that we worship Him together. In chapter 13, Paul reminds us that the most important thing we must have for each other is love. When we do this, it is beautiful and worshipful. In chapter 14, Paul goes on to address some specific problems they were having. At the end of 1 Corinthians 14, Paul reminds them that all things must be done decently and in order.

How is the worship service organized in your church? Are there certain things you do each week? Do you have an order of service? Why do you think you do things in a certain way or a certain order? If you have attended different churches, discuss the

different ways services can be ordered? Even doing the same thing, are there people who worship in different ways? (Try to observe at the next service.) Are there some that sing loudly, some that are quiet, some who raise their hands, and some that sit quietly? Different churches and different people worship God in different ways. Even though each person is worshipping God in his own unique way, there is order to what you are doing as a whole. This order helps us as a group to focus on God.

This week we are memorizing 1 Corinthians 14:40. This verse helps to remind us that worship should be about God. It is not about our preferences. It is not up to us to judge how others worship. It is important that when we worship, it is done from our heart.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

22. Ephesians 6:1

KJV - Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

CSB - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right.

ESV - Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

The writer of this devotional has often told others that the only difference between a boy and a girl in getting what they want is that a girl will hug you first and then put her hand out and a boy will just put his hand out. And it sure is nice to get the hug but the results are the same. That is why a daddy wants a boy but needs a girl.

Do Christian children act different from non-Christian children?

Here are the descriptions of two children. Which one is the Christian?

Peter

Peter gets out of the bed when he hears his parents get up. He makes his bed and looks around his room to see if he forgot to hang his clothes up last night. All is well. He goes into the kitchen and sets the table as his mother prepares breakfast. His dad starts to take the kitchen trash to the outside trash container and the phone rings. He asked Peter to take the trash out and Peter obeys while thinking somebody needs to do it, why not me.

Sarah

Sarah is tired because the revival at the church lasted extra-long last night. A revival meal, the service, a lot of decisions for salvation, and then everyone felt so good that they talked forever. She thought it would never end. Her mother called for her to get up, she lifted her head, turned over and went back to sleep. Her dad came in and said "get up now" in that voice that meant business, so she got up murmuring. She got dressed, went to the kitchen, and sat down. It was Wednesday and her dad always fixed breakfast on Wednesdays - hotcakes and sausage. Sarah had a nice thought to go through her head and so she told her dad, "You make the best hotcakes." They hear the trash truck coming down the street and since mom is taking care of the baby and dad is preparing breakfast he asked Sarah to grab the kitchen trash and get it to the road. Sarah is thinking, my hands are clean and hotcakes are best when they are hot so I will wait. The truck goes by and it is too late.

There is no way to know which one is a Christian, is there?

An up-to-date way of saying Ephesians 6:1 is, “Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents.” The apostle Paul is writing this to the church members at the church in Ephesus. Even though it is good advice for anyone he is writing to Christians. He is saying as a Christian you should act different from the average boy and girl. It is the right thing to do and it shows others that a Christian wants to have peace and happiness around them. That is just a little like what heaven is like.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

23. Philippians 4:13

KJV - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

CSB - I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

ESV - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

How do you read this verse? Notice the word 'which' in the KJV. For years people would quote this verse and change the word to 'who'. Is it saying, I can do all things through Christ, and knowing that gives me strength? Or is it saying Christ gives me the ability to do all things?

I really can't do all things; I am not a superman or superwoman. Maybe the important word is 'through'.

When Paul wrote this, he was in prison, and he wrote to express his appreciation for some gifts that were recently brought to him. Paul said in Philippians 4:11-12, *"I have learned to be satisfied with whatever I have. I know what it is like to be poor or to have plenty, and I have lived under all kinds of conditions. I know what it means to be full or to be hungry, to have too much or too little. Christ gives me the strength to face anything."*

With this in mind, Paul is giving us an example of how to be satisfied with what you have by keeping your mind on Christ and not on yourself. He is saying, when times are rough, don't concentrate on 'poor pitiful me' and when times are good don't get proud and say, 'look at me'.

Keep your heart and mind on Christ and all will be well.

Keep thinking I am doing what God would want me to do. I did what God would want me to do. God will give me the strength to make it through. I have peace about it!



VERSE BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS RED CYCLE

24. James 1:19

KJV - Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

CSB - **My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger,**

ESV - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

"We have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen twice as much as we talk."
"The word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'."

The verse after this verse, James 1:20 says, *"If you are angry, you cannot do any of the good things God wants done"*.

Don't you want to do what God wants done? Well control yourself. Practice seeing the good side of people. Dwell on the good and you will not find anger building up inside you. A Christian that is an angry type person is not what a non-Christian admires.

Thank about this statement – when you let someone make you angry then THEY are in control of you.

There were two tennis players who were very, very good. They were also very good friends.

Player 1 was better than Player 2. All through the week 1 would beat 2; but during a tournament, Player 2 would work his way up playing different players until he was matched with his friend, who was the best player in the tournament. He would then beat Player 1. How could this happen time after time? It happened because Player 2 always stayed in control and he would do or say something that made Player 1 angry. When Player 1 got angry, he would hit the ball too hard, or move too quickly, or make other mistakes. Player 1 knew what his friend was doing to him and that made him angry that he got angry. After the tournament they would laugh about it and Player 1 would admit that he beat himself when he lost control. He would also admit that his friend was in control of him.

When you listen rather than jump to conclusions and start talking you may have a better understanding of why someone did what they did. Listen, take a breath, and count to three.

Jesus is the best example of this verse. You can imagine that if we see things that make us angry how Jesus saw a lot of things that could have made him angry. But there are only five or six times that the scriptures say he was angry. One of the only times we know that he showed anger was when he went to the temple in Jerusalem and found animals and money changers in the temple. John 2:13-17 indicates that he took the time to make a whip and then went to the temple and drove out the people and the animals. Verse 17 says the scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire." Jesus said God's house is a place of worship! What we do in the church is serious. It is a place to enjoy but not play in. It is a place to run to but not run in. It is a place to eat together but not party in.



VERSE
BIBLE DRILL DEVOTIONS
RED CYCLE

25. 1 John 4:19

KJV - We love him, because he first loved us.

CSB - We love because he first loved us.

ESV - We love because he first loved us.

Have each family member draw a picture that shows love. Or give them each a wad of playdough or pile of Legos to shape into something that shows the word love. Have each family member share of a time when they experienced love or saw love demonstrated.

Ask the question, where does love come from?

As a family read 1 John 4:7-19.

What does this passage tell us about love?

This week, we are going to memorize the verse 1 John 4:19.

It is a short verse and easy to memorize but it tells of a BIG truth. Love is what we are called to do. We are to Love God with all we are and to love others. We can only love others because God first loved us. He is love. He demonstrates love. Because of Him, we can love. What a wonderful gift God gave us. Not only did He love us. He gave us the gift of loving others.

Family Activity: This week come up with a way each of you can show love this week. Then do it.