



family

DEVOTIONAL

The Ministry of Jesus



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

Answers Bible Curriculum

Unit 14 • Family Devotional

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Introduction

Welcome to the Answers Bible Curriculum family devotional. It is our prayer that God will use this guide as a tool to help you as parents to train and disciple your children. We encourage you to take time in the evening (or morning) during the week to have an intentional time of family Bible study, worship, and Scripture memory. You could do this every night or a couple of nights each week. Make it a habit, and don't let the to-do's and pressures of our busy lives rob you of this precious time together.

While it's true that the church has a God-given responsibility to teach God's Word and lead in worship, God gives the primary responsibility for a child's spiritual development to his or her parents. Below are just a few of the scriptures that admonish parents to be actively involved in training their children and teaching them the things of the Lord:

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.” (Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4–9)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

We suggest that you read the lesson summary out loud, and then read each of the scriptures and the questions that follow them and discuss the answers among yourselves. Of course, you'll want to adjust the questions based on the ages of your children. If you plan on having a family devotional time each night of the week, you will want to read ahead and split up each lesson into five or six smaller pieces.

We have included space for family prayer requests. It is important to spend time in prayer, lifting up the needs of each family member and praying for each one's spiritual growth. You can also use this time to lift up the needs in your church, any missionaries you know or support, etc. Record the prayer requests, and then review them from time to time to be encouraged as to how God has answered.

As parents, God has given you a great responsibility and a great privilege to train the next generation. You may not feel up to the task, but remember, our sufficiency is from God (2 Corinthians 3:4–6), and he delights in using the weak and foolish things of the world so that his wisdom and power may be manifest (1 Corinthians 1:26–31).



Jesus Overcomes Temptation

Lesson Summary

The Son of God came to earth to bring us salvation and righteousness. To do that, he had to become like us and take on flesh. Though Jesus had no sin to repent of, he went to John who was baptizing and calling people to repent. Jesus was baptized in the same manner as the wicked men for whom he had come to die.

The same is true of his temptation in the wilderness. Jesus did not exercise his power as God to satisfy his fleshly hunger, but he sought to be obedient to his Father in fulfilling his mission. As we will continually see, he only did that which pleased the Father. As he was tempted, Jesus looked to Scripture. He wielded the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). He looked to the Father by the power of the Spirit.

We have that same power available to us in the Word and in the Spirit. We have the Word of God recorded for us in our Bibles. This week, we'll look at scriptures that can help us in our own battle against temptation.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they teach us about temptation and how to resist it.

- 1 Corinthians 10:11–13 –

- Hebrews 2:14–18 –

- James 1:12–15 –

- Ephesians 6:10–13 –

- Ephesians 4:17–24 –

- Romans 6:1–13 –

- Psalm 119:9–11 –

- Galatians 5:16-24 –

- Hebrews 4:14-16 –

- Hebrews 12:1-4 –

- Galatians 6:7-8 –

- Psalm 73:25-26 –

- 1 Peter 1:18, 2:24 –

- Philippians 4:8 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Prayer

Thank God for his Word. Ask him to search your heart and reveal any sins of thought, word, or deed. Confess any known sins to him, thanking him for the forgiveness you have in Christ. Spend time worshipping God for who he is and what he has done.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Calls Followers

Lesson Summary

Jesus called men to follow him. He called them by name and took them under his wing to teach and train them. In John 15, Jesus reminded the 12 apostles that he chose them and appointed them for the tasks he had given them (John 15:16). The same is true for us when we hear the call of the gospel message; we can know that when we look to Christ in repentant faith, he will receive us as his disciples (John 6:37).

We also see that once these men were called by Jesus and became his disciples, they immediately sought to share that good news with others. Those disciples went and made more disciples, and then those disciples made disciples, and on, and on it goes. A true disciple can't help but tell others about his or her Savior and Teacher, calling them to follow him as well.

Through the making of disciples and the ongoing process of discipleship, the church has grown and the gospel has spread throughout the world. The gospel has gone out to all nations just as Jesus had directed. But there is still much work to do. It is our privilege as ambassadors of King Jesus to call others of our generation to follow him. Let's look at our responsibility from the Scriptures.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they teach us about our responsibility to share the good news of the gospel and make disciples, and what resources we have to do so.

- Matthew 28:18–20 –

- Acts 1:8 –

- Romans 1:16–17 –

- Romans 10:9–15 –

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 –

- 2 Timothy 2:1-10 –

- Matthew 9:37-38 –

- Psalm 96:1-13 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Prayer

Praise God for the great salvation you have in Christ. Thank him for his eternal plan to redeem sinners. Ask him to show you the greatness of your salvation and to show you opportunities to share the gospel with others this week.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus' First Signs

Lesson Summary

Jesus defended God's honor when he drove the sellers and money changers out of the temple and when he confronted the religious leaders because they were hypocrites—pretending to be holy while their hearts were wicked. Jesus demonstrated a holy, righteous anger. He never sinned in his anger.

We, however, if we are honest with ourselves, often sin in our anger. Unrighteous anger seems to be one sin that all of us express at one time or another. And Scripture has a lot to say about anger. Let's look at some of the passages this week.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages from the book of Proverbs and discuss what they teach us about anger.

- Proverbs 12:18 –
- Proverbs 14:17 –
- Proverbs 14:29 –
- Proverbs 15:18 –
- Proverbs 16:32 –
- Proverbs 17:27 –
- Proverbs 19:19 –
- Proverbs 22:24–25 –
- Proverbs 25:28 –
- Proverbs 29:11 –
- Proverbs 29:22 –

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Ephesians 4:26–27, 4:31–32

1. Can one be angry and yet not sin?
2. What does it mean to “not let the sun go down on your anger”?
3. What might anger give opportunity for?
4. Is anger something that should characterize Christians? What should instead?

James 1:19–20

5. What does James say about man’s anger?

Colossians 3:8–14

6. What are we to put off and why?

7. What are we to put on instead?
8. How are we to treat one another?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. Thank him for his Holy Spirit who works in us the fruit of the Spirit and gives us power over sinful anger. Ask God to help you turn to him when you start feeling angry and instead to show love for God and others.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Lesson Summary

This week we looked at Jesus' mission—to glorify his Father in heaven. He did that by reflecting God's character and by completing the mission for which he had come—to be obedient to the point of death on the cross, to provide salvation for all who trust in him.

The Bible tells us that God created us for his own glory (Isaiah 43:6–7), that our good works are so others will give God glory (Matthew 5:16), that everything we do is to be done for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), and that God's plan is to fill the earth with the knowledge of his glory (Habakkuk 2:14).

But, what does it mean to glorify God? How can we glorify God in our daily lives? Let's take a look at more scriptures that talk about glorifying God.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 86:8–13

1. For what will the nations glorify God (vv. 8–10)?
2. For what does the psalmist glorify God (vv. 11–13)?

Isaiah 11:1–9

3. What will characterize the Spirit of the Lord upon this “branch” (v. 2)?
4. How will he judge those on the earth (vv. 3–5)?
5. What will be the outcome of his rule (vv. 6–9)?

Isaiah 42:1–9

6. What will characterize God’s servant (vv. 2–3)?

7. How is the Messiah a “covenant for the people” and a “light for the nations” (v. 6)?

8. Were all these things accomplished at Christ’s first coming? When will they be accomplished?

Isaiah 49:5–10

9. What is the role of God’s servant? What will he accomplish (vv. 5–6)?

10. What will be the response of men and nations to the Redeemer (v. 7)?

11. What will the earth look like after it is restored (vv. 8–10)?

Isaiah 53:1–11

12. How did people respond to God’s servant (vv. 2–3)?

13. What did God’s servant do for his people (vv. 4–6)?
14. Did God’s servant deserve death (v. 9)? What was the purpose of his death (v. 11)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Prayer

Thank God for his servant, the branch, the Messiah, Jesus. Thank him for salvation from sin purchased by Jesus’ death on the cross. And thank him for the hope we have as we look forward to his return—when he will reign in perfect justice. Ask him for opportunities to tell others about our great Savior and Redeemer.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Offers Living Water

Lesson Summary

The last two lessons focused on gospel conversations that Jesus had with individuals. In both cases, he tailored his approach to resonate with the one he was speaking to. With Nicodemus, he spoke of being born again to eternal life. With the woman at the well, he offered living water. But his message was the same to both—you need a Savior and I am he.

This week, we will look at some of the different ways this same message was delivered.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 19:16–26

1. What was the rich man seeking?
2. What illustration did Jesus use to make his point?
3. How was the gospel presented in this account?

Luke 9:23–27

4. How did Jesus describe the cost of following him?

5. What illustration did Jesus use to make his point?

6. How is the gospel presented in this account?

John 10:7–18

7. What illustrations did Jesus use to make his point?

8. How is the gospel presented in this account?

9. What is the common message of all these accounts?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Prayer

Thank God the Father for sending God the Son to live a perfect life and die on the cross for sinners. Thank him for his Word—the Bible—so that we can know about the good news of salvation. Pray that God would give you a burden to share that good news with others.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Is Rejected in Nazareth

Lesson Summary

As we have seen, there are really only two responses to Jesus—you either submit to him as Savior and Lord or you would rather he be dead so that you can rule your own little kingdom. You are either for Christ or you are against him. You are either wheat or a weed (Matthew 13:24–30, 13:36–43). You are either a sheep who will be given eternal life or a goat who will be cast into everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:31–46). We see these examples played out in Scripture, and we see them played out as we interact with other people, although we can't know for sure if someone is wheat or a tare, or a sheep or a goat (someone may repent, like the thief on the cross next to Jesus).

This week we will look at several passages from the book of Acts to see the different responses to the early church's proclamation of the gospel.

Read and Discuss

Read the following chapters from the book of Acts and record the different responses to the preaching of the gospel. Who responded with faith? Who responded with anger? Why did they respond this way? What lessons can we learn from these historical accounts?

Acts 13

Acts 14

Acts 16

Acts 17

Acts 18

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Prayer

Praise God that his gospel is for all people. Ask him for boldness to share it with those around you. Ask him to help you share it with love, grace, and power, no matter how people respond. Entrust the results to him.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Cares for the Sick

Lesson Summary

In the account of the healing of the paralytic (Mark 2:1–12), Jesus told the man to get up and walk. Jesus healed his physical problem. But more importantly, Jesus told the man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” This man not only walked home with a restored body, but he also had been given a new heart—one that had been forgiven of sin. And through that forgiveness, he was given eternal life. Jesus had power over disease. And he had power over sin. He alone can forgive men who turn to him in repentance and faith.

The word forgive means to wipe the slate clean, to pardon, to cancel a debt. When we wrong someone, we seek that person’s forgiveness in order to restore the relationship. Forgiveness is not granted because a person deserves to be forgiven; no one deserves to be forgiven. Forgiveness is an act of love, mercy, and grace. Forgiveness is a decision to not hold something against another person, despite what he has done to you.

Let’s look at what the Bible has to say about forgiveness of sin.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss what they teach us about the forgiveness of sins—who needs forgiveness, sins’ consequences, and how we can obtain forgiveness.

- Ecclesiastes 7:20 –

- 1 John 1:8 –

- Romans 3:23 –

- Romans 6:23 –

- Isaiah 59:2 –

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 –

- Acts 13:38–39 –

- 1 John 1:9 –

- Ephesians 1:7 –

- Colossians 1:13–14 –

- Colossians 2:13–14 –

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Prayer

Thank God for sending his Son, Jesus, as Savior and Redeemer. Thank him for providing a sacrifice for sin. Praise him that he is a God of mercy and grace, offering total forgiveness through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Ask him for boldness to share this good news with others.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Calls Matthew

Lesson Summary

We have seen how Jesus chose his first five disciples as he returned from the wilderness after his temptation, and this week we read about the call of Matthew. Each of Jesus' disciples followed Jesus, leaving their lives behind. Following Jesus was no easy task, and each of the apostles would end up facing persecution for their faith and many would be put to death.

This week we want to examine a passage of Scripture in Matthew 10. This teaching of Jesus was to his apostles, whom he had recently chosen. It is a challenge to all followers of Christ.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 10:16–26

1. How will Jesus' followers be treated in the world (vv. 16–18)?
2. What does Jesus promise for his followers who are delivered up for his sake (vv. 19–20)?
3. How bad will the persecution of believers get (vv. 21–22)?
4. Why are we not to fear our persecutors (v. 26)?

Matthew 10:27–33

5. Whom are we to fear and whom are we to not fear (vv. 27–31)? Why?

6. What promise does Jesus give to those who openly confess him before men (v. 32)?

Matthew 10:34–39

7. What did Jesus mean when he said he came to bring a sword to earth (vv. 34–36)?

8. How should our love for Christ compare to our love for our family (vv. 37–38)?

9. What does it mean to take up our cross? How can we lose our life for Christ’s sake (vv. 38–39)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Prayer

Praise God for who he is—for his greatness, righteousness, mercy, compassion, glory, and power. Thank him for your salvation. Ask him to strengthen you to become a faithful disciple.

Family Prayer Requests:



Jesus Heals on the Sabbath

Lesson Summary

Our lesson this week focused on Jesus' authority over the Sabbath. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus did not abide by their Sabbath traditions and restrictions. But Jesus rebuked their legalistic approach to the Sabbath, instead teaching the spirit of the law and genuine obedience to the Father. Their rules had caused the Sabbath to become a burden to the people, rather than a time of rest and honor to God.

Bringing honor to God was a major intent of the law and a priority of Jesus. How can we bring honor to God?

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Romans 14:6–9

1. How can God be honored by both eating and abstaining (fasting)?
2. What is it that truly honors God?

1 Peter 2:12

3. Why did Peter instruct his readers to act honorably?

1 Timothy 6:1

4. How did Paul instruct servants to behave toward their masters?

5. What was the purpose of this behavior?

Philippians 1:12–30

6. Why was Paul grateful for his suffering?

7. What was Paul's chief concern?

8. How did Paul hope to honor God (v. 20)?

9. Based on all these passages, what is it that honors God?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Prayer

Worship God for who he is and what he has done. Thank him for sending his Son to show the world the heart of God. Thank him that he is the good shepherd and has laid down his life for his sheep.

Family Prayer Requests:



Unit Review

Lesson Summary

This week is a review week. We looked at Jesus' mission: to fulfill the work his Father sent him to do—to give everlasting life to all who believe in him. We also saw Jesus' amazing power that pointed to his deity. Jesus is indeed God, the second person of the Trinity. And we saw how different people responded to Jesus. Some believed in him and became his disciples; others hated him and wanted to kill him.

Those who encounter the spiritual healing that Jesus offers cannot help but to share of his goodness and proclaim his glory. But many of the religious leaders had forgotten the works of their God, and instead trusted in their own works. This week we will join with the psalmist in remembering the works of the Lord.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Psalm 105

1. What is the point of this psalm?
2. What historical allusions can you find?
3. What attributes of God are described in this psalm?

Memory Verses

Review the memory verses with your family.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Prayer

Praise God for what he has done—for his forgiveness, protection, provision, and grace. Thank him for your salvation. Ask him to help you to remember his works and to trust in him.

Family Prayer Requests:
