

Unit 6



family

DEVOTIONAL

God Delivers His People



Answers
BIBLE CURRICULUM

Answers Bible Curriculum

Unit 6 • 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).



God Protects Moses

Lesson Summary

After Joseph died, the Bible tells us that “there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph” (Exodus 1:8). Joseph was dead, the pharaoh who had elevated Joseph was dead, and now a new pharaoh was reigning who knew nothing of Joseph but who realized that the Israelites living among them were increasing greatly in number.

Because of this pharaoh’s fear, he enslaved the Hebrews and even went so far as to have newborn Israelite boys killed. For hundreds of years, the Israelites worked for the Egyptians and were harshly treated as slaves. In the midst of their burdens, they cried out to God, and he heard them (Exodus 3:23–25).

Sometimes God places us in difficult circumstances; sometimes God seems to be absent and to have forgotten about us. The Hebrews in Egypt no doubt felt like this. But God has purposes that we don’t always understand. He works in ways that allow evil to prosper, all the while working out his good, perfect plans. And sometimes it takes a long time—years, decades, generations—for his plans to be fulfilled.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Genesis 5:32, 6:11–18, 7:6

1. About how old was Noah when God commanded him to build the Ark?
2. About how many years passed before the Flood came? Do you think Noah ever doubted what God had commanded him to do?

Genesis 12:1–4, 17:1–2

3. How old was Abram when God first spoke with him and promised him descendants?
4. How long did Abram have to wait until his son Isaac was born? How might he have felt after waiting so long?

Genesis 15:7–14

5. Did Abraham and his descendants inherit the Promised Land during Abraham's life?
6. How long would Abraham's descendants have to wait before they would inherit the land of Canaan?

Hebrews 11:32–39

7. What were some of the trials and tribulations that happened to the saints of old?
8. Did they receive what had been promised them (see v. 39)?

1 Peter 1:3–13

9. How are we to live in the midst of trials? Why?
10. What kind of inheritance are we looking for? Will we receive it in this life?

11. Where is all of our hope to be placed?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Prayer

Praise God for his sovereignty in the midst of our trials and tribulations. Thank him for our eternal inheritance, reserved for us in heaven. Ask him for faith to persevere and even rejoice in the midst of trials and suffering. Ask him for patience to wait upon him and his timing to work out his good and perfect plan.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Calls Moses

Lesson Summary

Moses is a key figure of the Old Testament. He is revered by Jews, Muslims, and Christians as a great prophet and lawgiver. And indeed, God did use Moses mightily to lead his people out of bondage in Egypt and through the wilderness. Moses led them for 40 years and gave them God's laws.

But when God first called Moses, he was anything but leadership material. We read in Exodus 3 and 4 of Moses's conversation with God when God called him to lead his people out of Egypt. Moses felt woefully inadequate for the task and put forward many reasons why he wasn't the right man for the job.

We, too, may feel inadequate for the tasks that God has called us to: being a student, spouse, or parent; sharing the good news with others; teaching a Bible study; leading in worship; praying with someone in trial; confronting someone in sin.

And if we feel inadequate . . . we are right where God wants us. That's because our adequacy, our sufficiency, comes from him, not ourselves.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

1 Corinthians 15:8–10

1. What was Paul's view of himself?
2. What was it that made Paul who he was?
3. How did Paul labor? What energized him?

2 Corinthians 3:1–6

4. What was Paul's view of himself here?
5. From where did his sufficiency come?

Prayer

Praise God for his strength and faithfulness. Thank him that he is adequate and sufficient for all things. Ask him to help you abide in Jesus so that God's power may be manifested through you as he produces fruit in your lives. Ask God to remove any fear or doubt you may have in fulfilling the tasks that he has called you to.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Displays His Power

Lesson Summary

As Moses came to Pharaoh with the demand from God, Pharaoh tried to play God. He called on his magicians to show Moses that his gods were just as powerful. The magicians could imitate a few signs from God, but eventually their powers were too small, and they had to admit that the true God was in control of the plagues.

Through the plagues, God put his power on display and showed the impotence of the gods worshipped by the Egyptians. But Pharaoh persisted in his sin and rebellion, and God brought his just judgment. The plagues are a vivid reminder of how seriously God considers obedience and how awesome his power is.

Pharaoh is a picture of the nature of man since the Fall. Man hardens his heart to the truth, and rebels and seeks to be God rather than submitting to God. It has been that way since Adam and Eve believed the lie of Satan—you can be like God.

But those who are in Christ have a new nature—one that is no longer a slave to sin. The same God who displayed his power in judgment during the plagues displays his power now in the salvation and sanctification of his people.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Acts 1:6–9

1. What did the disciples ask Jesus, and how did he respond?
2. What did Jesus tell them would happen to them?
3. What does the Holy Spirit empower Christ's followers to do?

Romans 1:14–17

4. What three “I am” statements did Paul make in this passage? Do you feel the same way?
5. How is the gospel “the power of God for salvation”? Who experiences its power?

1 Corinthians 1:17–24

6. Why did Paul not want to use “words of eloquent wisdom” in his preaching?

7. How is the word of the cross the “power of God”? For whom is it the power of God?

8. How does the message of Christ demonstrate both God’s wisdom and his power?

2 Corinthians 12:7–10

9. Why was Paul given a thorn in his flesh?

10. How did God respond to Paul’s pleadings to remove the thorn?

11. What does it mean that God’s “power is made perfect in weakness”?

Colossians 1:9–12

12. What does Paul pray for the Colossian believers?

13. What does God’s power allow us to do (v. 11)?

2 Peter 1:3–10

14. What has God’s power granted to us?

15. What else has God granted to us so that we can partake of his nature and escape the corruption in the world?
16. What qualities does God want us to have? How do we get these qualities? What results from lacking these qualities? What results from having them?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Prayer

Thank God for his amazing power that he showed in creation, through his many miracles, and in the gospel. Ask him to fill you “with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (Colossians 1:9–12).

Family Prayer Requests:



God Sends the Final Plague

Lesson Summary

This week we looked at the final plague and how God protected his people. God had promised to make a great nation of the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob after a period of bondage. He was faithful to fulfill that promise, and the plagues on Egypt were all a part of his plan to bring the Israelites into the Promised Land.

We saw God's sovereign control over the events: he told Moses that Pharaoh would reject his command, and God also hardened Pharaoh's heart to bring about the outcome he had planned. As Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will."

Most importantly, we saw God's provision of salvation from the final plague of death as he passed over those who were protected by the blood of a lamb. This foreshadowed the Lamb of God who would come to take away the sin of the world and offer his blood so that God's wrath against sin would be withheld from those who trust in Christ.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 12:1–13

1. What were the requirements for the lamb that was to be sacrificed?
2. Why do you think God might have had the families keep the lamb with them for four days before killing it (vv. 3, 6)?
3. Why were they to be fully clothed and in haste when eating the Passover lamb?

Exodus 12:21–28

4. What were the Israelites to do with the blood of the Passover lamb?
5. What would God do as he passed through the land of Egypt?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Prayer

Thank God for his wonderful provision of Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Ask him to give you a new and fuller appreciation of the sacrifice of Jesus, and to give you boldness in sharing the good news of the gospel.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Parts the Red Sea

Lesson Summary

The delivery of the Israelites from Egypt through the Red Sea crossing is one of the great miracles of the Old Testament. Imagine the range of emotions that must have gripped the people as they crossed through the midst of the sea: amazement, fear, joy, wonder, hope . . .

After their deliverance, on the other side of the sea, the people celebrated and rejoiced. Exodus 15 records what is called the Song of Moses. God had triumphed over horse and rider when he allowed the waters that he had parted for the Israelites to roll back and destroy the Egyptian army. The Israelites should have never forgotten, and should have never failed, to remind their children of God's glorious victory over their enemies.

God is a God of love, but he is also a God of wrath and vengeance. We see this throughout the Old Testament but also in the New Testament, particularly in the book of Revelation (see 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 18:4-8, 19:1-4, 19:11-21).

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 14:30–15:19

1. What are some of the words used to describe God in this song?
2. Do you often think of God as a “man of war” (v. 3)? Why or why not?
3. Is it ever okay to rejoice when our enemy is defeated? Why or why not? Whose enemy were the Egyptians (v. 7)?
4. What would be the response of the surrounding nations to the Exodus from Egypt (vv. 14–16)?
5. How does Moses connect the Red Sea crossing to the promise given to Abraham (v. 17)?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Prayer

Praise God that he is the omnipotent, sovereign ruler of the universe. He is a just judge who will mete out vengeance on his enemies. Thank him that he showed his love and mercy in sending Jesus Christ to die for sinners. Ask him to give you both a love for your enemies and a desire to see God’s holy name honored.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Provides in the Wilderness

Lesson Summary

As God continued to fulfill his promises to the Israelites, he provided for them in miraculous ways. He made bitter water sweet, brought water from a rock, flooded their camp with quail, and provided their daily bread in the form of manna from heaven. There was not a need that he did not meet.

However, the response of the Israelites was not commendable. They grumbled and complained against Moses and Aaron for leading them out of Egypt, but they were really complaining against God. God was not pleased with them, but he was faithful to his own promises and fulfilled their every need.

All that the Israelites experienced is an example for us, even thousands of years later. Like them, we often complain about God's care and provision. But God has not changed—his character is immutable (unchanging). The same God who provided guidance, protection, sustenance, and hope for them is with us today. And he promises to meet our needs as we trust in him.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 6:25–34

1. What is Jesus' command to his followers in verse 25?
2. How does God care for his creation?
3. Instead of seeking after food, drink, and clothing, what should we be seeking?

Luke 11:1–9

4. What three things in verses 2–4 did Jesus tell his followers to ask for?
5. Part of this prayer is, "Give us each day our daily bread." Why shouldn't we pray for our weekly or monthly bread?
6. What is the point of the parable in verses 5–8?

7. What is God's promise in verse 9?

Philippians 4:10–13

8. What had the Apostle Paul learned?

9. During what times in your life have you been brought low or experienced abundance?

10. Philippians 4:13 is often taken out of context. What does Paul mean when he says that he can do all things through Christ?

11. How was Paul able to remain content? How can we remain content?

Philippians 2:14–16

12. What might it look like to “do all things without grumbling or disputing”?

13. If we were to live that way, what would the result be (v. 15)?

14. How can we learn to be content and to not complain?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Prayer

Praise God for his care for you. Thank him for his daily provision of all that you need. Ask the Holy Spirit to change your heart so that you will not complain, but be content. Ask God to make you as a light that shines in the dark world, as you live a life of gratitude and trust in him.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Gives the Ten Commandments

Lesson Summary

God's Law serves several functions. First, it acts as a mirror, reflecting to us both the perfect righteousness of God and our own sinfulness and shortcomings. The Law brings knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20, 7:7–11). It shows us our sinful condition and our need for forgiveness, and it acts as our tutor to lead us to faith in Christ (Galatians 3:19–24).

A second function of the Law is to restrain evil. Though the Law cannot change hearts, it can suppress lawlessness by its threats of judgment. God instituted human government to administer punishment for offenses (Genesis 9:5–6; Romans 13:1–5). The civil law secures order and helps to protect people from the unrighteous.

When Jesus walked on earth, he showed us that God is concerned with much more than mere external conformity to the Law; he desires truth in the inward parts.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Matthew 5:21–26

1. Which of the Ten Commandments states that you shall not murder?
2. How does Jesus take this commandment further?
3. Have you ever been angry with a brother? Are you now? What does Jesus say you should do about it?

Matthew 5:27–30

4. Which of the Ten Commandments states that you shall not commit adultery?
5. How does Jesus take this commandment further?
6. How seriously are we to take sin?

Matthew 5:33–37

7. Which of the Ten Commandments states that you shall not bear false witness?

8. How does Jesus take this commandment further?

9. What should we do instead of swear or make vows?

Matthew 23:25–28

10. What did Jesus say to the religious leaders of his day?

11. What is the only way that we can “clean the inside of the cup”? (See Hebrews 9:13–14; 1 John 1:6–9.)

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Prayer

Praise God for his holiness, which is reflected in his Law. Thank him for sending his Son, the only person who fully kept the Law and obeyed God. Confess any sin in your life, and thank Jesus for his sacrifice on the cross and for the righteousness of Christ that is ours when we trust in him.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Punishes Idolatry

Lesson Summary

A matter of weeks after the Israelites had made a covenant with God to obey his commandments, seeing his frightening presence inhabiting the mountain where Moses had gone, they sinned against him. God told them to not make any idols or bow down to them, but they quickly turned away, having Aaron fashion a golden calf that they might worship.

We might look at this and become astonished that they would turn away so quickly from the living God to a statue made out of their own jewelry. After all, this doesn't seem like much of a temptation for us today. But the truth is, we often seek after things that are replacements for God as our one object of worship. Instead of turning to God for comfort, significance, and safety, we turn to such things as money, personal power, relationships, approval, and control.

The idolatry of the Israelites and God's subsequent judgment serve as an example to us of how much God hates idolatry. He put thousands to death and sent a plague on others. God takes the sin of idolatry seriously, and so must we.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 20:1–4

1. What was God’s first commandment to the Israelites?
2. Why does God forbid worshipping anything but him?
3. What does it mean that God is a “jealous God”? What is he jealous for?

Deuteronomy 12:29–32

4. What was God concerned about as the Israelites began to possess the Promised Land?
5. How might we adopt our culture’s ideas of worship as we seek to worship God?

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

6. What experiences did the Israelites share?

7. Why was God not pleased with most of them?

8. What five things in verses 6–10 does Paul say that we must not do?

9. What happened to those Israelites who disobeyed God's commands?

10. What is the warning in verse 12? What is the promise in verse 13 that we can claim when we are tempted to disobey God?

James 4:1–5

11. What are some of the passions and desires that control people? What things do people covet and fight for?

12. According to James, why don't we receive the things we ask for?

13. What might being a "friend of the world" look like? What might being a friend of God look like?

14. What passions and desires control you? How have you been a friend of the world?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Prayer

Worship God for who he is, and thank him for all he has done for you. Ask God to reveal anything that you are trusting in besides him, anything that you are seeking for comfort or approval besides him. Repent of any covetousness or idolatry in your heart. Renew your commitment to worship God alone.

Family Prayer Requests:



God Dwells Among His People

Lesson Summary

Once the Israelites were free from bondage and had received God's Law, God instructed Moses to build the tabernacle—a movable, temporary structure where God would dwell among his people and where they would offer sacrifices to him. Exodus 35–40 details the construction of the tabernacle and its furnishings.

To build this structure and the ornate furnishings required much wood, gold, bronze, fabric, yarn, animal skins, and other items. God commanded that the people should give these as a freewill offering, along with their skilled labor. But he wanted only those who were willing to give: “Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me” (Exodus 25:2).

God had done so much for the Israelites in leading them out of Egypt, providing protection and food for them in the wilderness, and making a covenant with them by giving them his Law. And now the people responded by giving freely of their possessions and talents to worship God.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss the questions together.

Exodus 35:4–19

1. Whom did God want to bring offerings for the tabernacle?
2. Whom did God want to work on the tabernacle?
3. What does the high quality of the precious materials God required tell us about God?

Exodus 35:20–29

4. What was the attitude of those who presented offerings for the tabernacle?
5. What did those who spun yarn bring to their task?

Exodus 35:30–36:7

6. How had God equipped and prepared Bezalel and Aholiab for the work of the tabernacle?

7. In general, how did the Israelites respond to the building of God's tabernacle?

2 Corinthians 9:5–15

8. Restate this phrase in your own words: “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

9. What kind of giver does God love? Are you that kind of giver? Why or why not?

10. How does giving in this way demonstrate our obedience (v. 13)? How does it reflect the way that God gave to us?

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse with your family.

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Prayer

Thank God for all he has done for you—be specific. Thank him for how he has blessed you physically, materially, and spiritually. Ask God for eyes to see opportunities to serve him and others with the wealth and talents he has blessed you with.

Family Prayer Requests:



Review

Lesson Summary

This week is a review week. We have covered so much in the last nine lessons! This week we want to focus on what we've learned about God and his attributes through our study.

Some of the attributes we've seen include God's justice and mercy demonstrated in both judgement and deliverance; God's sovereignty—over both good and evil; God's faithfulness to his promises and his people; God's power over his creation; God's holiness that demands our worship; and his love and goodness demonstrated in all of his works.

Let's spend time this week praising our awesome God for who he is and what he had done, and especially for the indescribable gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Read and Discuss

Read the following passages and discuss which attributes of God are extolled, and join in the author in praising our mighty God.

Psalm 107

Psalm 135

Psalm 150

Romans 11:33–36

Romans 16:25–27

Jude 1:24–25

Revelation 4

Memory Verses

Review the memory verses with your family.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Exodus 20:1–3 And God spoke all these words, saying, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

Prayer

Spend time praising God for who he is, for as many attributes as you can think of. Thank him for all he has done for you. Thank him for the great salvation he has provided in Jesus.

Family Prayer Requests: