

Generations *ours to the next*

A family's faith is formed together.

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GENERATIONS: OURS TO THE NEXT

A family's faith is formed together. Because the richness of a faithful life is our response to the gifts we've been given through Jesus, Epiphany wants your faith life to thrive. We want parents and siblings to take an active and primary role in teaching the faith. We also want to build the strength of the body of Christ through relationships with other people and families who are going through the same seasons of life as you. We believe that through consoling, struggling, and celebrating with our peers, we mirror the bonds Jesus has with us, the church.

OLD TESTAMENT

The Almighty, all powerful God of the universe created the world and everything in it. This God wasn't content to put it in place, then remain hidden. God came to a particular people and claimed them, blessed them and told them to be a blessing to the world. Sometimes they obeyed, sometimes they disobeyed. Always God stayed faithful to the promise. What does this tell you about God? This quarter, we are going back to the basics of our faith by visiting some key stories from the Old Testament scriptures. Each week throughout the quarter, we will focus on a different story, hitting the following high points over the course of the quarter: Creation, The Fall (Adam & Eve), Noah, Abraham, Joseph, The Exodus, Daniel, and Jonah.

QUARTERLY OBJECTIVES

As we focus together on the Old Testament this quarter, we hope that your family and small group will...

- Practice skills of navigating the Bible together.
- Worship together regularly as a family.
- Memorize the Books of the Bible in order with a focus on the Old Testament.
- Understand and experience the richness of the Old Testament and its connection to our lives as followers of Jesus.
- Learn the basic details of these key Bible stories from the Old Testament:
 - Creation - week of January 26
 - Fall - week of February 2
 - Noah - week of February 9
 - Abraham - week of February 23
 - Joseph - week of March 1
 - Exodus - week of March 15
 - Daniel - week of March 22
 - Jonah - week of April 19





THIS MONTH'S BIBLE STORIES

Focus on one of these stories each week, by reading it together at home or in small group:

Joseph - Genesis 39:1-23 - Week of March 1

Jacob had 12 sons. But he had only one colorful robe. He gave it to Joseph. Joseph showed off his father's gift. His older brothers grumbled. They felt angry and jealous. They didn't want Joseph around. They found a way to get rid of him. But God was with Joseph and kept him safe. Many years later, the brothers did not have enough to eat. They traveled far away to find food. They didn't recognize the man who had food to share. "It's me!" Joseph told his brothers. "I forgive you for being angry. I want to help you." **Families say "I forgive you" to each other.**

Exodus - Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 - Week of March 15

Pharaoh would not listen to Moses, so bad things began to happen to Pharaoh's people. Frogs hopped and plopped all over. Flies buzzed and bit! Animals became sick, and the people got itchy, sore skin. The sky was dark all day and all night. Finally Pharaoh told Moses, "Yes, yes, yes. I will let God's people go." Moses led God's people to the Red Sea. But Pharaoh changed his mind. He told his soldiers to chase them. They were trapped! Moses raised his arm. God pushed the water back. The people walked on dry land to the other side. They sang and danced and thanked God. **We can thank God for helping us.**

Daniel - Daniel 6:1-28 - Week of March 22

"Pray to the king," the king's law said, "or be thrown to the lions!" But Daniel prayed only to God. The king's men heard Daniel praying. "To the lions!" they shouted. Daniel tumbled down into the lions' den. Lion eyes blinked. Lion tongues slurped. Lion voices rumbled. "Dear God," Daniel prayed, "have mercy on me." The sun went down that evening. The sun came up the next morning. The king and his men peeked into the lions' den. Daniel was safe! God's angel had closed the lions' mouths. They couldn't even roar! The king was amazed. He cheered, "God has saved him!" **God hears our prayers.**

Jonah - Jonah 1-4 - Week of April 19

"Jonah!" God called. "Go to Nineveh and share my message." But Jonah didn't want to go. He tried to hide from God by going on a boat. Soon a storm began to rock it back and forth. "Get off this boat!" the sailors shouted at Jonah. They threw him into the sea! Splash! Slurp! Gulp! A giant fish swallowed Jonah. The fish's belly was dark and stinky and lonely. "Dear God," Jonah prayed, "I'm sorry I didn't go to Nineveh. I'm sorry I tried to hide. Please give me another chance." Rumble! Blurp! Splat! The fish spit Jonah out onto the beach. Jonah hurried to Nineveh to share God's message. **God always gives us another chance.**

TAKING FAITH HOME

Do these activities this month at home with your family:

Books of the Bible

Spend some time this month working on learning the Books of the Bible in order. Practice looking up the Bible stories in your Bible using the book, chapter, and verse. Try finding a song on YouTube by searching for "books of the bible song."

Discussion Questions

- **Joseph** - Joseph found himself in a number of extremely hopeless situations, but he didn't give up. What would you tell a depressed friend who was thinking about giving up?
- **Exodus** - Have you ever had friends who complained a lot? How can different things in your world be *like* a form of slavery (drugs, materialism, athletics, electronics, etc.)? How can God give you freedom from those things?
- **Daniel** - Have you ever felt compelled to speak out against injustice, evil, violence, or anything else which you knew was against God's will? What happened?
- **Jonah** - Have you ever wanted to run away from something you knew God wanted you to do?

Blessing

Practice blessing each other with the sign of the cross on your forehead regularly throughout the week. This is a good bedtime ritual as you wrap up the FAITH5. Use these words throughout the next two months to bless each other:

"(Name), child of God, you are an heir to the promises of God and are blessed to be a blessing."

FAITH 5

Practice this nightly ritual at bedtime to strengthen the faith of your family and focus on our quarterly theme:

SHARE

highs and lows from the day

READ

a passage or verse together from the Bible

TALK

about how God is speaking to you through the verse or passage

PRAY

together, thanking God for your highs and asking God to be with you in your lows

BLESS

one another with the sign of the cross before you turn out the lights

