

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:

Creation - Genesis 1:1-31; 2:4-25 - Week of January 26

In the beginning, there was nothing--except for God. Then God breathed and began to speak. "Light! Let there be light!" God made light. And it was good. "Sky! Let there be sky!" God made the sky. And it was good. "Water and land! Plants and trees! Sun, moon, stars!" God made them all. And it was good. "Fish and birds and wild animals!" God made living creatures. And it was good. "People! Let there be people!" God saw all of creation, and it was very good. Then God rested. **We are part of God's good creation.**

The Fall - Genesis 3:1-24 - Week of February 2

Adam and Eve tended God's garden together. One day, the sneaky snake spoke to Eve. "I know why God told you not to eat from the tree of knowledge," the snake taunted. "If you do, YOU will know what GOD knows about GOOD and EVIL, and you will be like God." Eve sniffed the bright fruit. "How would it taste?" she wondered. "How would it feel to know about good and evil?" She plucked two fruits and gave one to Adam. Adam and Eve bit into the fruits. Immediately, they knew they had disobeyed. Ashamed, they covered their bodies with leaves and hid themselves from God. **God loves us, even when we make mistakes.**

Noah - Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 - Week of February 9

"Noah! Build a boat," God said. "Fill it with animals." Two at a time, animals crawled, flew, and waddled onto the boat. Noah and his family hurried inside. A storm began! For 40 days, rain poured from the sky. A flood covered the whole world with water. Finally the rain stopped. The water dried up. Two at a time, animals slithered, hopped, and wriggled off the boat. Noah and his family hurried outside. The flood was over! God put a rainbow in the sky. "I will never flood the earth again," God promised. **God keeps his promises to us.**

Abraham - Genesis 12:1-9 - Week of February 23

"Abraham! I will bless you," God said. "You will have a family too big to count--more family than stars in the sky!" "How can this be?" thought Abraham. "My wife Sarah and I have no children." But he believed God's promise. When Abraham told Sarah, she laughed and laughed. "I am so old! How can I have a baby?" she wondered. God's promise was true! God blessed Abraham and Sarah with a baby named Isaac. And their family kept growing. It became too big to count. They had more people in their family than stars in the sky! **You are a blessing from God to your family.**

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

- **Creation** - How does the basic order of creation found in Genesis 1 & 2 fit or not fit with what you are learning in school? Can one be a Christian *and* a scientist?
- **The Fall** - What rule did God give Adam and Eve? What did the snake tell Eve? What happened when Adam and Eve ate the fruit? What rules does your family have? Why is it important to have rules?
- **Noah** - What promises have you made and kept? How can we know that God keeps his promises?
- **Abraham** - Have you ever felt like God was calling you to do something? What was it like? What do you appreciate most about your favorite grandparent?

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

