

40 Days of Thanksgiving

to him who alone does great wonders...
Psalm 136:4

Introduction

The format of this study is modeled after the H.E.A.R. Journal and Discipleship Groups suggested by Robby Gallaty and Chris Swain. If you would like to read more about either, I recommend reading their book *Replicate: How to Create a Culture of Disciplemaking Right Where You Are*. If you enjoy the format of this study and would like access to more material using the same format, you can try the Foundations series by Robby & Kandi Gallaty. There are options available for kids, youth, and adults and the books provide a 260 day plan spanning 5 days a week for an entire year.

About This Packet

Day 1 – The first day of each week is a brief devotion introducing the weekly theme and memory verse. You may choose to read this individually or as a family.

Days 2-4 - The pages in this packet for days 2 through 4 of each week include a guide for children to follow and complete directly in their copy. Each study page includes a reference for the daily reading for each three groups: “Parents and Teens,” “Older Kids,” and “Younger Kids.” For simplicity, the Bible selection for “Younger Kids” is copied directly onto the pages; the longer passages for the older age groups are meant to be read directly from the Bible. While adults and teens may use the study pages as a starting point and a guide, it is recommend that they use a dedicated notebook for this study, following the H.E.A.R. Journal template which is included on the following page. These days are meant to be completed individually, though parents may find it beneficial to help younger kids, especially early readers and writers, work through the activities.

Day 5 – The last day of each week is “Family Share Time.” Set a time and day each week to gather and share something you got out of your reading and study for the week. This is a time to keep each other accountable and to encourage one another in your study and memorization.

I hope this study will draw you and your family closer together spiritually and help each of you along on the path of spiritual growth and mature discipleship.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are in the *New International Reader’s Version*.

H.E.A.R. Journal¹

- **Pray** asking God to speak to you and help you understand His word
- On your journal page write **Today's date** so you know when you did it
- Write down the passage you are reading today
- Under the date and the passage, write the letter H
 - **Highlight**
 - Copy a verse or two that speak to you into your journal.
 - Don't forget to include the verse number
- Under your copied verses, write the letter E
 - **Explain**
 - Explain what the verse/passage means
 - Ask yourself some questions if you need to:
 - Why was this written?
 - Who was it written for?
 - How does it fit with the verses before and after?
 - What is God trying to communicate here?
- Under your explanation, write the letter A
 - **Application**
 - Answer some of the questions below to help you:
 - How can this help me?
 - What does this mean today?
 - What would it look like if I applied this to my life?
 - What does this mean for me?
 - What is God saying to me?
- Under your application, write the letter R
 - **Respond**
 - What are you going to do about it?
 - Write down your plan for applying God's word to your life or a prayer asking God to help you apply it.

¹ Robby Gallaty and Chris Swain, *Replicate: How to Create a Culture of Disciple-Making Right Where You Are* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2020), chapter 7.

Overview

Weekly Format:

- **Day 1 - Devotion:** Scripture reading, introduction to theme, and questions to think about
- **Day 2-4 - HEAR Passages**
- **Day 5 - Family Share Time:** Share from the week's journal; accountability and wrap-up

Weekly Themes:

Week 1: God's Greatness

1. *Devotion: Psalm 145:3-7*
2. Genesis 1
3. Job 38-39
4. Isaiah 40
5. Family Share Time

Week 2: God's Presence

1. *Devotion: 1 Kings 19:11-13*
2. Joshua 1
3. Psalm 23
4. John 14
5. Family Share Time

Week 3: God's Protection

1. *Devotion: Matthew 14:29-32*
2. Psalm 91
3. Zephaniah 3
4. Daniel 3
5. Family Share Time

Week 4: God's Provision

1. *Devotion: Matthew 6:25-33*
2. Exodus 16
3. Proverbs 2
4. 2 Corinthians 1
5. Family Share Time

Week 5: God's Sovereignty

1. *Devotion: Romans 8:28-30*
2. Jeremiah 29
3. Lamentations 3
4. Ephesians 2
5. Family Share Time

Week 6: God Looks Deeper

1. *Devotion: 1 Samuel 16:5-7*
2. Judges 6
3. 1 Samuel 17
4. Psalm 139
5. Family Share Time

Week 7: Spiritual Blessings

1. *Devotion: Ephesians 1:3-10*
2. Romans 3
3. Philippians 4
4. 2 Timothy 1
5. Family Share Time

Week 8: Jesus

1. *Devotion: John 3:16-18*
2. Isaiah 53
3. Matthew 2
4. John 19
5. Family Share Time

Week 1

Be Thankful for God's Greatness

Day 1: Devotion

3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
4 One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
5 They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
6 They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
7 They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
Psalms 145:3-7 (NIV)

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:3

As you reflect on the details of your life, it shouldn't be too hard to think of good things God has done for you. It's easy to get stuck looking at what God has done for us and forget that we serve a great and mighty God who has done amazing things since the beginning of time and who will continue to do amazing things even after Jesus comes back to earth. This week we will focus on the greatness of God Himself, and the great things he has done in creation that we might take for granted. Remember, if God hadn't created the stars, we wouldn't have the warmth of the Sun. Take time this week to read about and reflect upon the awesome things God has done in His creation. We may not be able to fully understand how great He is but maybe we can begin to see the tip of the iceberg of His greatness.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:3

Parents and Teens: Read Genesis 1 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Genesis 1:1-11, 25 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Genesis 1:1, 3, 9, 11, 25) and respond

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.... God said, "Let there be light." And there was light.... God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear." And that's exactly what happened.... Then God said, "Let the land produce plants. Let them produce their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that grow fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds." And that's exactly what happened.... God made every kind of wild animal. He made every kind of livestock. He made every kind of creature that moves along the ground. And God saw that it was good.

Explain

- God is great because
 - He created the earth we live on and the sky we look at
 - He created the ground we stand on
 - He created the food we eat and the water we drink
 - He created the animals we keep as pets (or eat)
 - He created everything around us just by speaking

Apply

Draw or list some things God created that you are thankful for:

Respond

Pray: Dear God, help me to be reminded of how great you are when I look all the things you have made around me. Thank you for all the things you have created.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:3

Parents and Teens: Read Job 38-39 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Job 38:4-11 and Job 38:19-30 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Job 38:4-5, 8-9 and 39:19-20, 26-27) and respond

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you know.

Who measured it? I am sure you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

"Who created the ocean? Who caused it to be born?

I put clouds over it as if they were its clothes. I wrapped it in thick darkness.

"Job, do you give horses their strength? Do you put flowing manes on their necks?

Do you make them jump like locusts? They terrify others with their proud snorting.

"Job, are you wise enough to teach hawks where to fly?

They spread their wings and fly toward the south.

Do you command eagles to fly so high? They build their nests as high as they can.

Explain

- God is great because
 - He laid the earth's foundation and measured it
 - He created the ocean and set its limits
 - He gives the animals their strength and abilities
 - He shows the animals how to live

Apply

What are some other things only God can do?

Write two or three things God has done for you:

Respond

Pray: Dear God, thank you for using your great power to take care of everything you have made. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Psalm 145:3

Parents and Teens: Read Isaiah 40 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Isaiah 40:12-31 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Isaiah 40:12, 14, 28) and respond

Who has measured the oceans by using the palm of his hand? Who has used the width of his hand to mark off the sky? Who has measured out the dust of the earth in a basket? Who has weighed the mountains on scales? Who has weighed the hills in a balance?

Did the LORD have to ask anyone to help him understand? Did he have to ask someone to teach him the right way? Who taught him what he knows? Who showed him how to understand?

Don't you know who made everything? Haven't you heard about him? The LORD is the God who lives forever. He created everything on earth. He won't become worn out or get tired. No one will ever know how great his understanding is. He gives strength to those who are tired. He gives power to those who are weak.

Explain

- God is great because
 - He is bigger than we could ever imagine
 - He knows more than we could ever understand
 - He has always been and will always be
 - He does not get tired
 - He gives strength and power to His people

Apply

Draw a picture below to show some of the great things about God



Respond

Pray: God, thank you for helping me when I feel tired and weak. Help me to always rely on your strength and wisdom in everything I do.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 2

Be Thankful for God's Presence

Day 1: Devotion

8 “But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
you descendants of Abraham my friend,
9 I took you from the ends of the earth,
from its farthest corners I called you.
I said, ‘You are my servant’;
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
10 So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:8-10 (NIV)

Memory Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Last week we focused on God's greatness and we can keep that in mind as we think about His presence this week. The God who created the heavens and the earth, who laid the earth's foundation, and who measured its dust in a basket is with you all the time. Wherever you go, whatever you do, God is with you to strengthen you and to help you, to hold you close and to keep you safe in His love through the good times and the bad times. As you study the passages this week, remember: The God of the universe, in all His greatness, is *your* God and He is always with you. That's something you can always be thankful for.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Parents and Teens: Read Joshua 1 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Joshua 1:1-11 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Joshua 1:5-9) and respond

Joshua, no one will be able to oppose you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will never leave you. I will never desert you. Be strong and brave. You will lead these people. They will take the land as their very own. It is the land I promised to give their people of long ago.

“Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn away from it to the right or the left. Then you will have success everywhere you go. Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success. Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the LORD your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.”

Explain

- God promised to always be with Joshua
- Because God was with Joshua, no one could stand against him
- Because God was with Joshua, he could be strong and brave
- God promised that Joshua would be successful as long as he did God's will
- God promised to be with Joshua no matter where he went

Apply

List some times God has helped you to be strong and brave:

Respond

God, thank you for always being with me and for helping me to be strong and brave wherever I go and whatever I do. Help me to be faithful in studying and obeying your words.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Parents and Teens: Read Joshua Psalm 23 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Psalm 23 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Psalm 23:1-4) and respond

The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.

He lets me lie down in fields of green grass.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths

for the honor of his name.

Even though I walk

through the darkest valley,

I will not be afraid.

You are with me.

Your shepherd's rod and staff

comfort me.

Explain

- Because God is with us
 - He provides what we need
 - He gives us strength
 - He shows us where to go
 - He gives us courage
 - He gives us comfort

Apply

Draw a picture of a time when you felt God comforting you and guiding you:



Respond

Father, thank you for walking with me all the time. Thank you for showing me where to go and keeping me safe. Thank you for giving me comfort when I need it most.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Parents and Teens: Read John 14 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read John 14:15-31 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (John 14:23-27) and respond

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them. We will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. The words you hear me say are not my own. They belong to the Father who sent me.

"I have spoken all these things while I am still with you. But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you. I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid.

Explain

- We should obey God because we love Him
- God has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us
- He will teach us about God
- He will remind us about God's teaching
- He will give us peace

Apply

When is it easiest for you to obey God?

Do you ever struggle to obey God?

Respond

Dear God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to remind us of your teaching. Help me to obey you all the time. Thank you for giving me peace and courage.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 3

Be Thankful for God's Protection

Day 1: Devotion

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
2 My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
8 the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121 (NIV)

Memory Verse: Psalm 121:7-8

It doesn't get more powerful than that: "My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." The creator of the universe is watching over you, keeping you from harm not just now, but forever. You may face all kinds of struggles in your life but God is with you, He is always watching over your life and He is going to make sure His children make it home to Him safely.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Psalm 121:7-8

Parents and Teens: Read Psalm 91 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Psalm 91 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Psalm 91:1-4) and respond

Whoever rests in the shadow of the Most High God
will be kept safe by the Mighty One.

I will say about the LORD,

"He is my place of safety.

He is like a fort to me.

He is my God. I trust in him."

He will certainly save you from hidden traps
and from deadly sickness.

He will cover you with his wings.

Under the feathers of his wings you will find safety.

He is faithful. He will keep you safe like a shield or a tower.

Explain

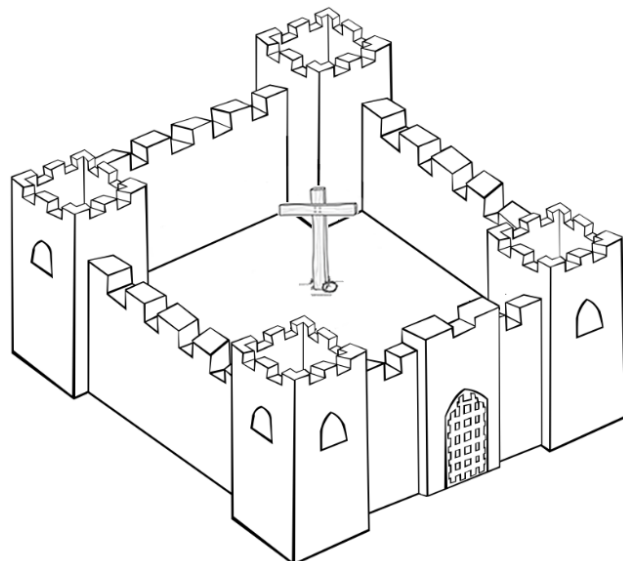
- God is the Most High – He rules over all things
- God is the Mighty One (almighty) – He is all powerful and can do all things
- If we stay close to God, He will keep us safe
- If we follow God he will keep us out of trouble
- Like a fort or a tower, God can protect us from enemy attacks

Apply

Draw yourself where you
think you are in relation to
God's fortress:

Respond:

Thank you, God for keeping
me safe. Help me to stay
close to you and to live in
your protection.



Highlight

Memory Verse: Psalm 121:7-8

Parents and Teens: Read Psalm Daniel 3 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Psalm Daniel 3:17-21, 24-29 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Daniel 3:17-18, 21, 25, 27b) and respond

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (NIV)

So they were tied up. Then they were thrown into the furnace. They were wearing their robes, pants, turbans and other clothes.

The king said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They aren't tied up. And the fire hasn't even harmed them. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods."

Not one hair on their heads was burned. Their robes weren't burned either. And they didn't even smell like smoke.

Explain

- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew what God was able to do
- They trusted God to protect them
- They remembered that God could choose not to protect them
- They were willing to serve only God no matter what
- God was with them in the fire and kept them safe

Apply

What is a hard time God has protected you through? Write about it or draw it:

Respond

God, thank you for being with me and protecting me through hard times in my life. Help me to remember you're there even while I go through bad situations.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Psalm 121:7-8

Parents and Teens: Read Matthew 14 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Matthew 14:25-33 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Matthew 14:28-32) and respond

"Lord, is it you?" Peter asked. "If it is, tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, "Lord! Save me!"

Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "Your faith is so small!" he said. "Why did you doubt me?"

When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

Explain

- Peter trusted Jesus enough to try walking on water
- Jesus was with Peter the whole time
- Peter was able to walk on water while he was focused on Jesus
- Peter sank while he focused on the storm
- The storm didn't stop until they got into the boat

Apply

Draw a circle around pictures where it might be HARDER to keep your eyes on Jesus.

Draw a square around pictures where it might be EASIER to keep your eyes on Jesus.

Draw your own picture somewhere on the page and then put a circle or a square around it.



Respond

Dear Jesus, thank you for rescuing me when I am in trouble and thank you for giving me peace. Help me to keep my eyes on you when I am in the storms of my life and help me to remember to call on you for help when I need it.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 4

Be Thankful for God's Provision

Day 1: Devotion

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:25-33 (NIV)

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

It's easy to get caught up worrying about all kinds of things in our lives. Big or small; past, present, or future; physical or spiritual; it doesn't really matter to us, we'll worry about it all. But Jesus tells us we don't need to worry about any of it: our Father, the almighty God of the universe, who is always with us, always watching over us and protecting us, will provide us with everything we need. Why worry when we can pray to our Father and rest, knowing he will meet our needs according to His perfect will?

Highlight

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

Parents and Teens: Read Exodus 16 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Exodus 16:1-15 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Exodus 16:11-15) and respond

The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the people of Israel talking about how unhappy they are. Tell them, 'When the sun goes down, you will eat meat. In the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' "

That evening quail came and covered the camp. In the morning the ground around the camp was covered with dew. When the dew was gone, thin flakes appeared on the desert floor. They looked like frost on the ground. The people of Israel saw the flakes. They asked each other, "What's that?" They didn't know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It's the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Explain

- God hears His people
- God provides for the physical needs of His people
- God can work through nature, like with the quail
- God can work through miracles, like with the manna

Apply

Draw a picture of something you have asked God for that he gave you:



Respond

Thank you, God, for hearing my prayers and giving me what I need. Help me to know you're working whether it's through miracles or through everyday things.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

Parents and Teens: Read Proverbs 2 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Proverbs 2:1-12 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Proverbs 2:1-2,5-6,9,12) and respond

My son, accept my words.

Store up my commands inside you.

Let your ears listen to wisdom.

Apply your heart to understanding

Then you will understand how to have respect for the LORD.

You will find out how to know God.

The LORD gives wisdom.

Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.

You will understand what is right and honest and fair.

You will understand the right way to live.

Wisdom will save you from the ways of evil men.

It will save you from men who twist their words.

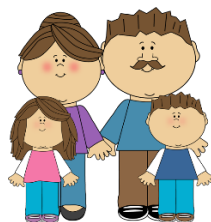
Explain

- God speaks to His people
- God gives wisdom to those who seek it
- Wisdom helps us to do the right thing
- Wisdom helps us to live a good life
- Wisdom keeps us safe from lies

Apply

Draw a star around the pictures that would offer you wisdom.

Underline the pictures that probably would not offer wisdom.



Respond

Dear God, thank you for giving me wisdom to know right and wrong and to help me follow you. Please help me to always seek your wisdom and to use it in everything I do.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33

Parents and Teens: Read 2 Corinthians 1 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-12 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (2 Corinthians 1:3-7) and respond

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble. We ourselves receive comfort from God. We share very much in the sufferings of Christ. So we also share very much in his comfort. If we are having trouble, it is so that you will be comforted and renewed. If we are comforted, it is so that you will be comforted. Then you will be able to put up with the same suffering we have gone through. Our hope for you remains firm. We know that you suffer just as we do. In the same way, God comforts you just as he comforts us.

Explain

- God loves His people tenderly
- God gives His people comfort in times of trouble
- Because God comforts us, we can comfort other people
- Sometimes we go through hard times so that God can comfort us and we can help others

Apply

Write about or draw something God has comforted you through.

How can you use that to comfort others?

Respond

Thank you, God, for being the God of comfort and helping me to feel better when life gets tough. Help me to share your comfort with those around me every chance I get.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 5

Be Thankful for God's Sovereignty

Day 1: Devotion

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
Romans 8:28-30 (NIV)

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28

God's sovereignty means that He is in control as the supreme power and authority over all of His creation. While we might face hard times in our lives but none of it catches God off-guard. He has a plan for each of us and He will use everything we go through, good and bad, to help us become the person He wants us to be, so that we are able to fulfill the purpose He has in mind for us. As you study this week, remember: God is in control and He will work everything out according to His will.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28

Parents and Teens: Read Exodus Jeremiah 29 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Jeremiah 29:4-14 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Exodus Jeremiah 29:10-14) and respond

The LORD says, "You will be forced to live in Babylon for 70 years. After they are over, I will come to you. My good promise to you will come true. I will bring you back home. I know the plans I have for you," announces the LORD. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come. Then you will call out to me. You will come and pray to me. And I will listen to you. When you look for me with all your heart, you will find me. I will be found by you," announces the LORD. "And I will bring you back from where you were taken as prisoners. I will gather you from all the nations. I will gather you from the places where I have forced you to go," announces the LORD. "I will bring you back to the place I sent you away from."

Explain

- God is in charge of all things
- God keeps His promises
- God has a plan for His people
- God listens when His people talk to Him

Apply

Write about or draw a promise or plan you have made that didn't work out.

Write about or draw a promise that God has made

--	--

Respond

Thank you, God, for always keeping your promises and for making a good plan for my life. Help me to always trust in your plans and in your promises.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28

Parents and Teens: Read Lamentations 3 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Lamentations 3:37-40, 58-60 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Lamentations 3:37-40) and respond

Suppose people order something to happen.

It won't happen unless the Lord has planned it.

Troubles and good things alike come to people

because the Most High God has commanded them to come.

A person who is still alive shouldn't blame God

when God punishes them for their sins.

Let's take a good look at the way we're living.

Let's return to the LORD.

Explain

- People can't mess up God's plans
- Good and bad things come to us to serve God's purposes
- We shouldn't blame God when we do bad things
- God let's us come back to Him when even when we turn away

Apply

Draw one picture to show what bad things could happen and one to show how his parents might respond? Talk to your parents about who was to blame for the consequences.



Respond

Thank you, God, for giving me a chance to turn back to you even when I do bad things. Help me to accept your forgiveness and to walk in your way.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Romans 8:28

Parents and Teens: Read Ephesians 2 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Ephesians 2:1-10 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Ephesians 2:4-5, 9-10) and respond

But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you.

It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. We are God's creation. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good works. Long ago God prepared these works for us to do.

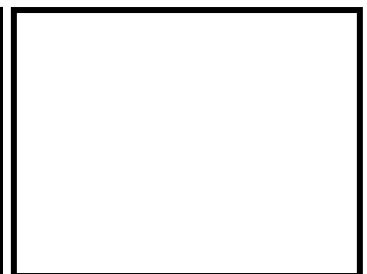
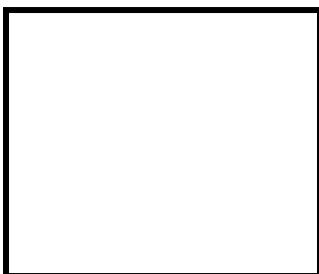
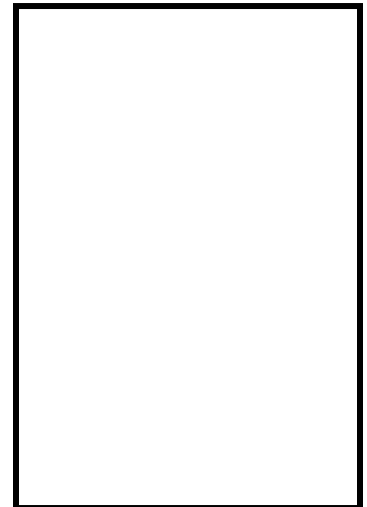
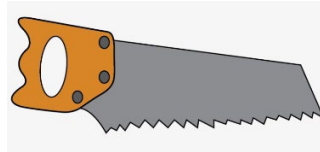
Explain

- God loves us very much
- God has a lot of mercy to give
- God gave us new life through Jesus, **EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T DESERVE IT!**
- God made every person on earth
- God has a special job for each one of us to do

Apply

In the last box, draw a picture of yourself.

In the space under each picture write what it's used for.



Respond

Dear God, thank you for showing us mercy even though we don't deserve it. Thank you for making me special and giving me a purpose. Help me to fulfill my God-given purpose.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 6

Be Thankful that God Looks Deeper

Day 1: Devotion

5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:5-7 (NIV)

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

Maybe you've been picked last on the playground, maybe you've been passed over for a job or have had someone assume the worst about you. It's easy to get discouraged when we deal with other people because we can only see what's on the surface. Most of our decisions are based on what we can see and so we pick the tallest guy for our basketball team, the person with the highest education for the job. God looks deeper than that to see what's in our hearts. He knows what makes us tick, our strengths and our weaknesses. God knows what will make us stronger and He knows what we were made to do. When everyone else around us gets caught up looking at the surface, remember that God knows you deeply and perfectly. And it's what God knows about you that really matters.

Highlight

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

Parents and Teens: Read Judges 6 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Judges 6:1-16 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Judges 6:12, 14-16) and respond

The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon. He said, “Mighty warrior, the LORD is with you.”

The LORD turned to Gideon. He said to him, “You are strong. Go and save Israel from the power of Midian. I am sending you.”

“Pardon me, sir,” Gideon replied, “but how can I possibly save Israel? My family group is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh. And I’m the least important member of my family.”

The LORD answered, “I will be with you. So you will strike down the Midianites. You will leave no one alive.”

Explain

- God looked inside to see Gideon’s strength
- God wasn’t concerned with how much power Gideon’s family had
- God wasn’t concerned with how important Gideon was in his family
- God was with Gideon and that gave him all the strength he needed

Apply

Do you ever feel weak and unimportant like Gideon did?

What do you think God would say about you? If you need help, ask your parents.

Respond

God, thank you for knowing the strength you have put inside me and for knowing just what you can use me for even when no one around me can see it. Help me to have the courage to step up to the job you call me to when you say I’m ready.

Highlight

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

Parents and Teens: Read 1 Samuel 17 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read 1 Samuel 17:20-24, 32-37, 45-50 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (1 Samuel 17:24, 32-33, 37, 50) and respond

Whenever Israel's army saw Goliath, all of them ran away from him. That's because they were so afraid.

David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him."

Saul replied, "You aren't able to go out there and fight that Philistine. You are too young. He's been a warrior ever since he was a boy."

The LORD saved me from the paw of the lion. He saved me from the paw of the bear. And he'll save me from the powerful hand of this Philistine too."

So David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone. He struck down the Philistine and killed him. He did it without even using a sword.

Explain

- Everyone in Israel's army was afraid of Goliath
- David wasn't afraid because he trusted God
- David knew God had prepared him to fight Goliath
- David knew that even though Goliath was strong God is stronger
- God used David even though he was a young shepherd and not a trained warrior

Apply

Draw or write about a time when other people thought you were too weak or small to do something:

Respond

Thank you, God, for getting me ready to do a job you have in store for me. Help me to stand up even when others think I'm not big enough or strong enough. Help me to remember that YOU are big enough and you can help me do everything you have planned for me.

Highlight

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 16:7

Parents and Teens: Read Psalm 139 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Psalm 139:1-16 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Psalm 139:1-4, 13-14) and respond

LORD, you have seen what is in my heart.

You know all about me.

You know when I sit down and when I get up.

You know what I'm thinking even though you are far away.

You know when I go out to work and when I come back home.

You know exactly how I live.

LORD, even before I speak a word,

you know all about it.

You created the deepest parts of my being.

You put me together inside my mother's body.

How you made me is amazing and wonderful.

I praise you for that.

What you have done is wonderful.

I know that very well.

Explain

- God knows every detail about every person
- God knows everything we have done and everything we will do
- God created our deepest, smallest details
- Every person is carefully put together by God
- Every person is a piece of God's work and His works are wonderful

Apply

Write about or draw something you think no one knows about you but you wish they did?

Respond

Dear God, thank you for making me special and for knowing me so well. Help me to always remember that I am special in your eyes and that you know everything about me.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 7

Be Thankful for Spiritual Blessings

Day 1: Devotion

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-10 (NIV)

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3

If you were asked to “count your blessings,” as the song says, you might start by listing all the wonderful things God has given you: a loving family, good friends, a warm (or cool) house to live in, food to eat, and on and on. These are all great things to be thankful for, but we can lose all of them and still be perfectly blessed. This week our focus will be on spiritual blessings God has given us. These are things that can’t be taken away no matter how hard people might try; things that draw us closer to God or that we can enjoy because of our relationship with Him. Remember that when everything else fades away, we have been lavished in God’s grace and forgiven of our sins and that grace and forgiveness is ours forever.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3

Parents and Teens: Read Romans 3 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Romans 3:21-31 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Romans 3:22-25) and respond

We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ. This happens to all who believe. It is no different for the Jews than for the Gentiles. Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. The free gift of God's grace makes us right with him. Christ Jesus paid the price to set us free. God gave Christ as a sacrifice to pay for sins through the spilling of his blood. So God forgives the sins of those who have faith. God did all this to prove that he does what is right. He is a God of mercy. So he did not punish for their sins the people who lived before Jesus lived.

Explain

- God blesses us with His mercy, grace, and forgiveness
 - Everyone has sinned and needs to be made right with God
 - Because of His mercy, God gave us a way to be made right with Him – Jesus
 - Because of His grace, Jesus paid the price for our sins
 - All we have to do to be forgiven is believe in Jesus and follow Him

Apply

Mark each of the following statements True or False:

- I am not a sinner, so I don't need Jesus ____
- God knows every bad thing I have ever done ____
- God won't show me grace unless I do enough good deeds ____
- God sent Jesus to pay for my sins so that I could be forgiven ____
- I can be forgiven by putting my faith in Jesus ____

Respond

God, thank you for showing mercy and grace and for making a way to be forgiven of all my sins even though I don't deserve it. Help me to remember that I am a sinner and that Jesus, paid the price for my forgiveness.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3

Parents and Teens: Read Philippians 4 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Philippians 4:4-13 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Philippians 4:4-7, 9, 12b-13) and respond

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! Let everyone know how gentle you are. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to him. Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood.

I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough. I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

Explain

- God blesses us with joy, peace, and strength
 - We can be joyful because of what God has done for us
 - We don't have to worry because God will give us peace in every situation; we just need to ask Him
 - God will give us strength to get through the hard times we go through

Apply

Draw a circle the pictures of times you can be joyful.

Underline the pictures of times you can have peace.

Draw a star around the source of your strength.



Respond

God, thank you for giving me Jesus to help me have the strength to be joyful and at peace no matter what I am facing. Help me to turn to you in every situation and to remember to pray all the time.

Highlight

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:3

Parents and Teens: Read 2 Timothy 1 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read 2 Timothy 1:3-11 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (2 Timothy 1:6-8) and respond

This is why I remind you to help God's gift grow, just as a small spark grows into a fire. God put his gift in you when I placed my hands on you. God gave us his Spirit. And the Spirit doesn't make us weak and fearful. Instead, the Spirit gives us power and love. He helps us control ourselves. So don't be ashamed of the message about our Lord. And don't be ashamed of me, his prisoner. Instead, join with me as I suffer for the good news. God's power will help us do that

Explain

- God blesses us with power, love, and self-control
 - Because of God's power we can stand boldly, even in tough situations
 - Because of God's love we can share the Gospel with those around us
 - Because of self-control our bad impulses don't have to control us

Apply

Write or draw about a time when God help you to show power, love, or self-control:

Respond

God, thank you for blessing me with the gift of power to be strong and not be ashamed of the Gospel, the gift of love to care for those around me, and the gift of self-control so that I don't have to be controlled by my impulses. Help me to use your gifts for your glory.

Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
- If anyone did not memorize the verse, help them along and encourage them to memorize next week's verse

Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
- As each person shares, allow others to offer feedback, or ask questions.

Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

Week 8

Be Thankful for Jesus

Day 1: Devotion

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18 (NIV)

Memory Verse: John 3:16

As we wrap up our study of things that we can be thankful for, we have saved the best for last. Jesus was the best gift ever given and everyone can receive Him if they will only open their hearts to Him. All of our spiritual blessings, God's provision and protection, even His plan for our lives comes back to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Through Jesus we have forgiveness and, according to John chapter 1, through Him all things were created. Without Jesus' sacrifice, we have no forgiveness, and without Jesus in our hearts we have no eternal life. We can always be thankful that God gave us the gift of Jesus and the promise of eternal life if we believe in and follow Him. Give thanks and share what God has done for you so that everyone can receive the best gift ever.

Highlight

Memory Verse: John 3:16

Parents and Teens: Read Isaiah 53 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Isaiah 53 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Isaiah 53:4-5, 12b) and respond

He suffered the things we should have suffered.

He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.

But we thought God was punishing him.

We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer.

But the servant was pierced because we had sinned.

He was crushed because we had done what was evil.

He was punished to make us whole again.

His wounds have healed us.

He took the sins of many people on himself.

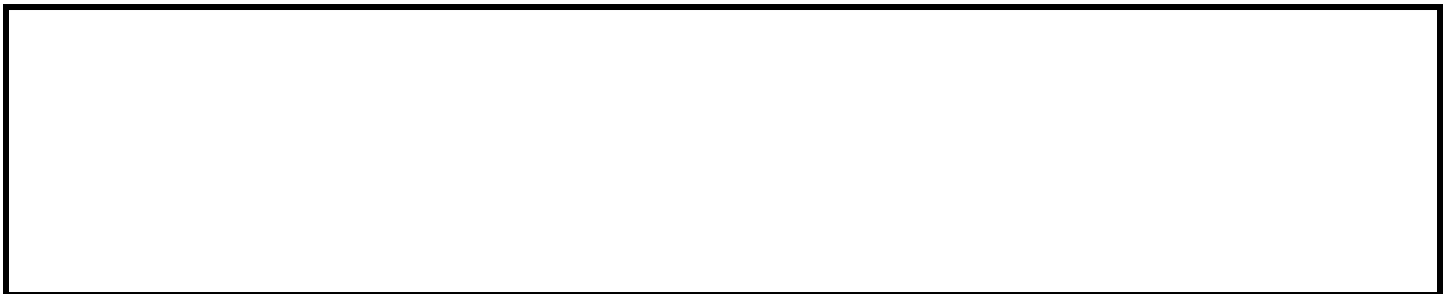
And he gave his life for those who had done what is wrong.”

Explain

- Jesus’ sacrifice was predicted long before He was born
- He took on the suffering everyone on earth deserves
- Jesus suffered for the sins of all mankind for all time
- Jesus suffered to heal us so that we can be with God

Apply

The book of Isaiah was written about 700 years before Jesus was born. Draw a picture of something you think happened 700 years ago:



Did anyone know anything about your life 700 years ago?

Respond

God, thank you for sending Jesus to pay for the sins of all mankind. Help me to tell everyone I can the good news about what you have done.

Highlight

Memory Verse: John 3:16

Parents and Teens: Read Luke 2 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Luke 2:4-15 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Luke 2:6-11) and respond

While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.

Explain

- Jesus was born and grew up, just like any other baby
- Jesus was not born rich and didn't have a fancy bed to sleep in
- Jesus' birth was good news for all people
- Jesus came to be savior and deliverer of God's people

Apply

Jesus is a king, but he had a very humble birth. Draw a picture of what you think it looked like when He was born and a picture of what you think it looked like when you were born.

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Respond

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth as a baby even though you had to have such a humble birth. Help me to appreciate all the things I have and all that you have done for me.

Highlight

Memory Verse: John 3:16

Parents and Teens: Read Mark 2 and respond in your HEAR Journal

Older Kids: Read Mark 2:9-17 in your Bible and respond below

Younger Kids: Read the passage below (Mark 2:9-10, 16-17) and respond

Is it easier to say to this man, ‘Your sins are forgiven’? Or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus spoke to the man who could not walk.

Some teachers of the law who were Pharisees were there. They saw Jesus eating with sinners and tax collectors. So they asked his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

Jesus heard that. So he said to them, “Those who are healthy don’t need a doctor. Sick people do. I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to follow me.”

Explain

- Jesus came to forgive us of our sins
- Jesus spent time with people everyone thought were the worst sinners
- Jesus came to help sinners and every single person needs His help
- Everyone can follow Jesus

Apply

Draw a picture of someone you know that you could share Jesus with. Pray for them by name, asking God to help them come to know Him.

Respond

Dear God, thank you for Jesus and for all the other blessings you have given us. Help me to remember how awesome you are and to have the boldness and courage to share your Jesus with the person in this picture and with everyone else that I can. I love you, thank you for loving me.



Petition

Take prayer requests and pray about them specifically. You may write them down in the space below:

Recite

- Ask each person to share the memory verse for the week
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Share

- Give everyone a chance to share something that was meaningful to them this week.
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Pray

Pray, asking God to continue to work in your hearts and lives, and to help you to understand His word clearly. Feel free to allow different members of the family to pray

40 Days of Thanksgiving



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Joe Perez

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