

## FALL 2019

Unit 1, Session 1

### CONNECTION POINT:

When your life is centered in Christ, everything else falls into place.

### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** A lot of things press for our attention each week. Good things. Important things. As a result, we can often feel pulled in multiple directions, because everything is crying to be the priority and focus of our lives. Wouldn't it be great if we had only one thing to focus on? Jesus said there is—His kingdom and righteousness—and when this is our focus, everything else falls into place.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** John 4:46-54

**Live It Out:** Fold a sheet of cardstock or construction paper in half to make a card. Give your child stickers and crayons or markers to decorate the card. Inside the card print Jesus heals people. Pray for someone you know who is ill and deliver the card to that person.

One day a man who worked for the king came to talk to Jesus. The man's son was sick and about to die. The man asked Jesus to come and heal his son.

"Come before he dies," the man said.

Jesus said, "Go home. Your son will live."

The man believed what Jesus said. On the way home, he saw some of his workers. They told him that his boy was alive. The man asked when his son got better.

"He began to get better yesterday," the workers said.

The boy began to get better at the same time Jesus spoke to him. The man knew that Jesus was God's Son. Jesus spoke the words, and the boy was healed.

## KIDS

**Scripture:** John 4:46-54

**Live It Out:** Share with your child that while Jesus might not heal all illnesses, He could. We can know that Jesus can heal people because He has power over sickness. Help your child list people who are ill. Choose one or two to visit, send a card, or call.

An official found Jesus in a town and asked Jesus to come to his home. He wanted Jesus to heal his son.

Jesus remarked that no one believes unless he sees miracles. But the official begged Jesus to come and heal his son before he died. Jesus told the man to go home, his son would live.

As the man was returning home, a servant met him and gave him the news that his son was better. When asked what time the boy started getting better, the servant told the time to his master.

The official remembered that this was the exact time Jesus told him that his son would live. The official and his family believed in Jesus.

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:25-34

- What kinds of things cause people to worry?
- Describe the relationship between faith and worry.
- What are some lies that cause worry to increase?

**Live It Out:** Because of the curse of sin upon creation, we will, without a doubt, face all sorts of uncertainties, pressures, and troubles throughout our lives. When we depend on ourselves to deal with these, we'll find we often fall short, and this produces a great deal of worry. However, if we depend on God to provide for us, we're released from our worries and moved to deeper faith in Him.

Worry and anxiety are among the biggest problems your teen is facing. Share with your student a time when God provided for you and calmed your fears. Talk with your student about any worries he or she may be facing and pray together over those.

## FALL 2019

Unit 1, Session 2

### CONNECTION POINT:

Deepen your relationship with God by spending time with Him every day.

### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** Where does a life of simplicity start? It starts when we begin our day. It's often tempting to jump into our tasks, knowing we have a lot to accomplish. Starting each day with God gives us the singular focus we need that brings greater contentment. As we focus on God in praise and pray, dwelling on Him becomes an ongoing practice throughout the day.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

**Live It Out:** If your child is afraid of turbulent weather, take the time to pray with her. Review the Bible story of the storm that the disciples faced and how Jesus helped them. Remind your child that Jesus (and God) are in charge of the weather.

Jesus sat in a boat and spoke to large crowd of people. The people sat on the shore and listened to many stories that helped them learn about God.

Later, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let's go across the lake." They left and sailed to the other side. Jesus went to the back of the boat so He could rest. He went to sleep on a cushion.

Suddenly a big storm came up. Wind and waves rocked the boat. Water splashed into the boat. The disciples were afraid. They called, "Jesus! Wake up! We're in danger!"

Jesus stood up. He told the wind to stop blowing and the waves to be still. The wind stopped! The waves became calm and still!

The disciples were surprised that Jesus had stopped the storm.

## KIDS

**Scripture:** Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

**Live It Out:** Use the verses in the Daily Bible Readings from this page to learn more about Jesus' power over nature. Because Jesus was fully God, as well as fully man, He had power from God. Sing a song of praise for God's power.

Jesus told His disciples to go across the lake. They got into the boat and started across.

Suddenly, a strong wind blew. The waves were huge. The waves spilled over the boat. The boat was about to sink.

Jesus was at the back of the boat. He was asleep!

The disciples woke Jesus. They said, "Don't you care that we are about to die?"

Jesus stood up. To the wind and waves, He said, "Be quiet! Be still!"

The wind stopped. The lake was still. Jesus said, "Why are you afraid?"

The disciples said to each other, "Who is this Man? The wind and the waves do what He says!"

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:4-9

- What's your favorite way of expressing praise to God?
- What are some obstacles to experiencing the joy and peace of God?
- How does the world tempt us to think on negative things?

**Live It Out:** Though we all face difficulties in life, as followers of Christ, we have many reasons to rejoice. First and greatest, we have received the gift of salvation. Beyond this, we receive God's blessings every day as signs of His love and goodness. The world will tempt us to be discontent, and to complain about our circumstances. However, in Christ we have all we need and more.

Encourage your student to connect and praise God in a different way every day this week (prayer journaling, isolated prayer, singing worship songs, etc.). Challenge your student to find a form of worship that works best for him or her and make it an every day habit.

# FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

## FALL 2019

Unit 1, Session 3

### CONNECTION POINT:

True contentment comes through Christ alone.

### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** Life would be simpler if we didn't have to think about paying bills or taxes, right? Or at least if we had more money, we wouldn't worry or feel stressed. That seems logical, but such contentment does not come from our bank balance; it begins in our hearts. The apostle Paul knew this from experience, and he gave us the "secret" to being content regardless of our finances.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** John 9:1-34

**Live It Out:** Review today's Bible story with your child. Remind your child that Jesus helped the blind man by giving him the ability to see. Explain that Jesus showed God's power by helping people. Pray, thanking Jesus for helping people.

Jesus saw a man who had been born blind. The blind man begged for money as people walked by him.

Jesus wanted people to see God's love. He made mud and put it on the man's eyes. Jesus told the man to go and wash his eyes in a pool called the pool of Siloam.

The man obeyed Jesus. He went to the pool and washed the mud off his eyes. Then he could see! Jesus had healed the man.

People were surprised that the man could see. They asked, "Are you the man who used to sit in the street and beg? What happened?"

The people saw that Jesus did things that no one else could do.

## KIDS

**Scripture:** John 9:1-34

**Live It Out:** Help your child look through the Bible and find miracles that Jesus performed. Make a list of each miracle and where it is in the Bible. Talk with your child about how Jesus met a need for each person or group involved in the miracle.

When Jesus and His disciples encountered a man born blind, they questioned Him about who was being punished, the man or his parents. Jesus told them it was to show God's power.

Jesus made mud and put it on the man's eyes. Then He directed him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man could see!

People were confused about what happened. But the man Jesus healed assured them that he was the one born blind and Jesus healed him.

The temple leaders asked the man how he was healed, but they did not believe him. The man told them the only way He could do this was if He had come from God.

The men from the temple were angry and made the man leave.

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:10-20

- What keeps us from experiencing contentment?
- How do you demonstrate trust that God will meet your needs?
- What truths about God encourage you to be generous?

**Live It Out:** Many people see the church as the place they go to have their needs met—spiritual, emotional, relational, physical, and otherwise. However, it's much better to see the church as a family, bound together in love, and among whom we're blessed to use our spiritual gifts in serving others. Contentment comes not in the receiving, but in using what God gives for His purposes, particularly among our brothers and sisters in the church.

With real faith, we will be content with all that we have—no matter how much or little that may be. As a family, consider how you show the world that you are content in your faith and trust in God to provide for all of your needs. If it is not easily seen, how can you make changes to demonstrate your trust and dependence on God?

## FALL 2019

Unit 1, Session 4

### CONNECTION

**POINT:** Godliness with contentment is great gain.

### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** Possessions can give us a feeling of security. That sentiment, if left unchecked, can lead to hoarding. If possessions give me security, then more possessions will give me more security. This is not just a problem with hoarders. Most of us feel better off with more possessions, or at least better possessions. But the contentment we seek from such things eludes us. God offers us a simpler approach to contentment: it grows out of our relationship with Him.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:22-33

**Live It Out:** Show the Bible story picture on this page and talk about the Bible story. Explain that walking on the water was a miracle, something only God and Jesus can do. Use a picture Bible to find and talk about other stories of miracles that Jesus performed.

Jesus told His disciples to go to the other side of the lake in a boat. Jesus went up the mountain to pray.

After many hours, the boat was far away from land. The wind was blowing the boat. Jesus came to His disciples, walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him, they were afraid.

When Jesus told them to not be afraid, Peter said, "Jesus, let me walk to You on the water." Jesus replied, "Come."

When Peter began to walk, he became afraid of the wind and the water. Peter called out to Jesus for help. Jesus took Peter's hand.

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind stopped. The disciples were amazed.

## KIDS

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:22-33

**Live It Out:** Talk with your child about some of his favorite Bible stories about Jesus. Discuss what Jesus was teaching through these stories about His nature. Explain that because Jesus was fully God, He did miracles, and He wants us to know and believe He still can perform miracles.

After a long day of teaching by the lake, Jesus sent His disciples across the lake while He went up on a mountain to pray.

While the men were still trying to get across, a big wind came up, tossing the boat on the water. Jesus came to the boat, walking on top of the water. The disciples were afraid!

Peter asked to walk to Jesus on the water. But as he stepped out of the boat, his attention was drawn to the waves. Peter became afraid and began to sink. Jesus reached out and took Peter's hand. "Why did you doubt?" Jesus asked.

When Jesus got into the boat, all the disciples worshiped Him. They knew He is God's Son.

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 6:6-11,17-19

- When has a desire for a specific possession led you to feel discontent?
- How can we recognize when money is becoming an idol?
- How do we maintain a healthy balance between valuing money and contentment?

**Live It Out:** God is the owner of all things, and everything He entrusts to us is to be used for His purposes and not for our own selfish desires. We experience true contentment when we see our own possessions as ultimately belonging to God and live trusting He will provide for us exactly what we need.

The love of money is marked by selfish pursuits. However, Jesus taught that to love Him is to love others, even as we love ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). The church is to be characterized by the love we show each other. Consider someone in your church family in need of help, and with the help of your student, brainstorm ways you can help this friend. Recall ways you have been helped in the past as you talk with your student.

## FALL 2019

Unit 1, Session 5

### CONNECTION POINT:

Rest is a gift from God.

### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** Being productive is considered a virtue in our culture, but how far do we take that? We stay busy with jobs, family activities, sports, and hobbies. We desire a simpler lifestyle, but who has the time? Productivity is not tied to the amount of things we do, but the way we use our time. God has given us a gift toward that end: rest. We need to recapture the importance and habit of rest as a time of refreshment and restoration.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** John 21:1-19

**Live It Out:** Put a few inches of water into a dishpan. Add some plastic fish to the water. Give your child an aquarium net to catch the fish in the water. Review the Bible story with your child. Thank Jesus for giving us what we need.

Peter and his friends had been fishing but caught no fish. A man on the shore told them to put their nets down on the right side of the boat. When they lifted the net, it was full of fish! There were 153 fish in the net.

John recognized the man as Jesus. Peter jumped in the water and swam to shore. The rest of the men brought the boat with the fish.

The men saw a fire with bread and fish cooking on it. Jesus invited the men to eat breakfast with Him.

The men were happy to see Jesus. Jesus talked to Peter and asked if Peter loved Him. Jesus told Peter, "Follow Me."

## KIDS

**Scripture:** John 14:14; 21:1-19

**Live It Out:** Review the Bible story with your child. Explain that Jesus was soon going back to heaven but wanted His disciples to understand that He would return. Read together the Daily Bible Readings from this page to learn more about Jesus.

Jesus' ministry with His disciples was to prepare them for His crucifixion, resurrection, and return to heaven. He told them He would come back some day.

After Jesus' resurrection, some disciples decided to go fishing. They fished all night but caught no fish. As they were heading to shore, a man told them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. They caught so many fish the men could not pull the net into the boat.

When they recognized Jesus as the man, Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore. Jesus and build a fire, cooking fish and bread. He invited the ment to eat breakfast.

Later, as Jesus talked to Peter, He asked Peter three times, "Do you love Me?"

Jesus told Peter to follow Him and feed His sheep.

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:8-11; 31:12-17

- What distractions can keep us from resting and reflecting on the Sabbath?
- By observing the Sabbath, what are we declaring about God?
- How does Sabbath rest impact our relationship with God?

**Live It Out:** We live in a relationship with God based on His promises to His people, and His covenant with us. However, no man could ever obey God perfectly; therefore, we were cut off from His blessings—that is, no man except Jesus! Jesus fulfilled God's law perfectly, and because of His sacrifice, we now have access to God's blessings through our faith in Christ. True faith in Christ means living as He did—in obedience to the Father.

We are always rushing from one thing to the next, whether that includes soccer games, dance practice, or marching band competitions. With so much to do, how are you making time for the Sabbath? As a family, discuss ways you can make observing the Sabbath a priority each week.

## FALL 2019

Unit 1, Session 6

### CONNECTION POINT:

Let God's love drive how you relate to others.

### THE BIBLE MEETS

**LIFE:** Living a life of simplicity includes living in simplicity in our relationships with others. Just as we can simplify our lives by eliminating the demands we place on ourselves, we can simplify our relationships by eliminating the demands we place on others. We can avoid the drama that complicates our relationships with an attitude that puts Christ first, people second, and ourselves third.

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

## PRESCHOOL

**Scripture:** Genesis 6:9–9:17

**Live It Out:** Help your child build an ark of blocks. Add some animal figures to the ark. Talk about the Bible story. Comment that God did exactly what He told Noah He would do—send a flood. But God promised to never again destroy the earth by flood.

God told Noah to build a big boat called an ark. God told Noah how big the ark should be and exactly how to build it. God said it would rain for many days.

God promised that Noah, his wife, and his sons and their wives would be safe in the ark. God told Noah to take two of every kind of animal into the ark.

Noah did what God said. Noah, his family, and the animals got on the ark. God shut the door. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Noah and his family were safe inside the ark.

When the water finally dried up, Noah's family and the animals walked out of the ark. Noah thanked God for taking care of him and his family.

God placed the rainbow as a sign of His promise that He would not flood all the earth.

## KIDS

**Scripture:** Genesis 6:9–9:17

**Live It Out:** Review the Bible story with your child. Ask: "What was the promise God made to Noah after the flood?" Comment that the rainbow is a sign of God's promise to never destroy the world again by a flood. God always keeps His promises.

Noah tried to live as God wanted. God told Noah to build a boat called an ark. God told Noah how to build the ark. God told Noah to put two of each kind of animal on the ark. God told Noah to gather food for the animals. He told Noah to gather food for his family.

After Noah, his family, and the animals were on the ark, God closed the door. Rain fell for forty days and forty nights. Water filled the earth and even covered the mountains!

Later, God sent a wind to dry up the water. Noah, his family, and the animals left the ark. God said to Noah, "Spread out over the earth and live in it."

God made a promise to Noah. He promised never to flood the whole earth again. To show that He would always remember His promise, God put a rainbow in the sky.

## STUDENTS

**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 4:3-12

- When have you had an opportunity to stand for holiness in the face of immorality?
- Why do you think God places a high value on holiness?
- Where do you currently have opportunities to show God's love to others?

**Live It Out:** God created us to live in a relationship with Him and with others. As we spend time knowing our heavenly Father, we grow to be more and more like Him. And in turn, as we relate to others, we are to reflect the character of God in the ways we treat them. To treat people unlovingly goes against the very purpose for which God created and called us. However, when we treat others lovingly, not only will we receive God's blessings, but God will use our love to draw others to Himself.

It can be difficult to love others, but it is what we have been called to do. Challenge your student to reflect on his or her relationships and consider if those are healthy. Then ask your student how the way he or she treats others is reflecting the love of Christ.