



# FOR PARENTS

## OF ELEMENTARY-AGED KIDS

**BREAKING**  
**NEWS**

Hey, parents! This page is a look at what we're covering with your kids this month so you can help your kids continue to grow at home during the week. If you aren't comfortable joining us on Sunday mornings yet, the following pages will give some activities and discussion questions to help you

### GROW AT HOME THIS MONTH

## WEEK 1 – November 1

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Micah** who had a warning for people who disobey God and are also causing others to disobey.

- **THE BIBLE:** Micah 3:5-12, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
- **THE BIG IDEA:** When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.

## WEEK 2 – November 8

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Amos** who had a warning for people who only look like they are worshiping on the outside.

- **THE BIBLE:** Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 25:1-13
- **THE BIG IDEA:** When I worship God, I can be sincere.

## WEEK 3 – November 15

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Zephaniah** who had a warning for people to turn back to God before it's too late.

- **THE BIBLE:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17; (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

- **THE BIG IDEA:** When times are tough, I can count on God.

## WEEK 4 – November 22

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Ezekiel** who had a warning for false leaders who led God's sheep – people – in the wrong directions.

- **THE BIBLE:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7
- **THE BIG IDEA:** When I am lost, God guides me.

## WEEK 5 – November 29

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Isaiah** who reminded everyone that God has never changed even though people have turned away from God.

- **THE BIBLE:** Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- **THE BIG IDEA:** I can be faithful like God is faithful.

**MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH:** 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT)

**Be on guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be courageous. Be strong.**

# WEEK 1 – November 1

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Micah** who had a warning for people who disobey God and are also causing others to disobey.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** *I can choose to do what is right.*
- **THE BIBLE:** *Micah 3:5-12, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13.*

**(Take some time to read these verses together, then take time to answer the questions that follow.)**

## **Read Micah 1:2-3**

*What was God telling his people in this chapter?*

## **Read Micah 2:2-3 and 3:9-10**

*What were some of the bad things people were doing?*

## **Read Micah 4:3-4**

*Even though God was really upset with everyone, he still had something good to say. What was the hopeful part of this chapter?*

## **Read Micah 5:2-4**

*Who do you think Micah is talking about here?*

**Say:** *It's important to know that Micah prophesied here or said something that is going to happen. He said that Jesus was coming, even though Micah lived 700 years before Jesus was born!*

*God still loved his people, but he was angry that they were choosing to do what was wrong. That's why we need to remember to choose what's right.*

## **FAMILY ACTIVITY |**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give everyone in your family a sticky note and something to write with.*
- **Say:** *It can be easy to do what everyone else is doing around us. But I hope that you'll follow Micah's example and stand up for what is right. Wake up each day and ask God to help you do what's right, even when things around you are going wrong.*
- *Have everyone think of one way that they can choose to do what's right this week. Maybe they want to stand up for someone getting made fun of. Maybe they want to stick around after dinner and wash the dishes, even after everyone leaves the kitchen.*
- *Brainstorm with your family how you Write a prayer on your sticky note asking God to give you the strength to do the right thing you just thought of.*

# WEEK 2 – November 8

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Amos** who had a warning for people who only look like they are worshiping on the outside.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** *When I worship God, I can be sincere.*
- **THE BIBLE:** *Amos 5:18-24; Matthew 25:1-13*

**Read the verses together and then stop to talk about the questions.**

## DISCUSS

### Read Amos 1:3-5

*What is God saying here? What have the people done?*

For the next couple of chapters God calls out Israel and Judah, and the nations around them. If you scan you can see how many sinful nations God is angry at.

It's important to know that in these nations, a lot of people said they followed God, and they gathered to worship and bring offerings. Let's see what God says about that.

### Read Amos 5:21-24

*Even though the people were worshipping, what did God think of it?*

God wants us to worship with our whole lives. He doesn't want us to worship and do what he wants at certain times.

### Read Amos 9:11-12

Again, God ends his message with a promise that one day his people will be happy again and live in peace. Although he was going to punish them for their sins, he will never walk away from them.

God is clear that if we don't live our lives for him, pretending to worship and praise won't impress him. That's why we need to be sincere.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have everyone in your family take a minute and dress up like someone else. It could be a costume you have, or you could even wear the clothes of someone else in your family. Then take turns seeing who can pretend to be their character the best.*
- *Remind your kids that although it is fun to pretend to be someone else, God always knows who we are inside our hearts, so we should live lives that truly show God's love.*

# WEEK 3 – November 15

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Zephaniah** who had a warning for people to turn back to God before it's too late.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** *When times are tough, I can count on God.*
- **THE BIBLE:** *Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17; (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)*

**Read the verses from the minor prophet, Zephaniah. Then pause so you can talk about the questions together.**

## DISCUSS

### Read Zephaniah 1:4-6

*God was angry with his people again. What is the main sinful thing they were doing?*

### Read Zephaniah 1:7-9

*Who was God really mad at in these verses?*

God is very angry at the leaders of the people, especially since they were supposed to be showing everyone the right way to live.

Even though God is promising to punish his people again, just like the other prophets, there is a message of hope, and it's a good one.

### Read Zephaniah 3:14-17

*What is the message of hope here?*

### Read verse 17 again.

*How does this verse make you feel?*

Zephaniah may make it seem like God is ready to give up on his people, but this last verse clearly shows that he will never do that. When we read verse 17 especially, we can see that even when times are tough, we can always count on God's love.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have everyone in your family grab a pair of shoes and sit in a circle. Choose one person to take one shoe from each pair and hide them around the house so no one sees them.*
- *Once they are hidden, have everyone get up and go look for their shoe. Make sure that everyone only looks for their own shoe. No one can help anyone else or say if they find someone else's shoe.*
- *After everyone has found their shoe, do the whole thing again and have someone hide the shoes. This time have everyone go find their missing shoe, but this time you can help each other. So, if you find someone else's shoe, you can tell them or help them look.*
- *When this part is done, gather up and talk about what you saw. Which way was better, when you had to do it alone? Or when you could count on someone else to help you? Isn't it great to know that we can always count on God?*

# WEEK 4 – November 22

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Ezekiel** who had a warning for false leaders who led God's sheep – people – in the wrong directions.

● **THE BIG IDEA:** *When I am lost, God guides me.*

● **THE BIBLE:** *Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

## **Read together from Ezekiel, another prophet of God in the Bible.**

Back story: Here the people of Judah are living in Babylon. They had been sinning so much and not listening to God's warnings, that God allowed their enemies to capture them and force them to live far away from their homeland. Ezekiel had a message to the conquered people, who were still sinning against God.

### *DISCUSS*

#### **Read Ezekiel 34:10**

*Who is Ezekiel talking to specifically? Why does Ezekiel keep talking about sheep?*

God was using a metaphor here. His people are like sheep, who need someone to lead them and take care of them.

#### **Read Ezekiel 34:11-15**

*What is God promising here?*

God promises to be his people's shepherd. He promises to take care of them and love them.

#### **Read Ezekiel 34:31**

What a great thing for God to say! No matter where they were, God still kept them as his own, and he is there to guide us when we need it.

How does God guide us today? Brainstorm some ways as a family that you see God showing what to do every day.

### *FAMILY ACTIVITY*

● *In our verse we see that God is our shepherd, he is there to guide us. In other words, he is our leader. To help us remember that God is the ultimate leader, let's play a game of Follow the Leader.*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell everyone to stand up. Play a few rounds of "Follow the Leader." Make sure they follow everything you do. Then have the others take turns being the leader.*
- **Bonus!** *Play a variation of this game where the leader gives a command (e.g., "lift your right foot") but does a different action (e.g., raises right hand). Anyone who does what the leader does instead of what the leader says is out!*

# WEEK 5 – November 29

This week, kids hear **breaking news from the prophet Isaiah** who reminded everyone that God has never changed even though people have turned away from God.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** *I can be faithful like God is faithful.*
- **THE BIBLE:** *Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17; (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)*

**Isaiah is known as a major prophet. His book is 66 chapters long, and he has a lot to say. Once again, God's people were turning away from him. Isaiah warns them how angry God is with them, and then in chapter 64 he reminds them how amazing God is.**

## DISCUSS

### Read Isaiah 64:3-4

*What does Isaiah say about God? What words point out how powerful God is?*

### Read Isaiah 64:5-7

In these verses Isaiah points out how sinful we all are, but he says we could have help.

*Who did he say could help us?*

His people are sinning again and again, and even though he keeps warning them to stop, they don't go back to God! You would think if they kept forgetting God, he would forget them, right?

### Read Isaiah 65:16-19

God never forgets his people. He will always be there for them. Do you know what word we use to describe when someone sticks around and never gives up on you? Being faithful! God is very faithful to us, and we should be faithful to him.

## FAMILY ACTIVITY

- *As a family, take some time to share a story about a time when you broke a promise. Share how things might have worked out differently if you had kept your promise and how sorry you are that you broke the promise. Keep the story lighthearted.*
- *This reminds us how important it is to keep our promises to each other and to God. We need to be faithful just as God is faithful to us.*
- *Remember, God is faithful and can be counted on no matter what. God will always come through.*
- *I can be faithful like God is faithful.*