



FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL-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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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
- **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.

Breaking News – (PRESCHOOL)

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:** When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.

- **THE BIBLE:** Micah 3:5-12

ACTIVITY | Hilarious Headlines

- Hey, friends! Does anyone know what a prophet is?

- A prophet brings people the news, kind of like a person you might see on TV who shares what's happening in the world.
- But a prophet brings news from God. Sometimes, that made people not like them, but they had to be truthful about what God had to say.
- Sometimes, the breaking news was exciting! Other times, it was a bit scary. Before we get into today's story, let's write our own breaking news stories.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids pieces of white paper and something to write with – pencils for the older kids, crayons for the younger kids. Tell each kid to write or draw a news story about something silly or crazy happening. For example, "Breaking News: Children Are Now in Charge of Grownups!" or "Breaking News: Salads Will Now Be Replaced with Ice Cream at All Restaurants!" Another option would be to come up with ideas as a group rather than have each child draw their own. Third option would be to show the kids three to five silly pictures like the ones pictured below and tell them to raise their hands to share their hilarious breaking news headline for that picture.



SCRIPTURE | Micah 3:5-12

TEACHING TIME

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recruit a few family members to help tell the story. One can play the part of Micah. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the interview portion.
- Today, we're going to hear about a prophet named Micah. Micah lived in Israel a long, long time ago. Micah had some "breaking news" for the people, and it wasn't good. Oh, here's Micah now! Let's ask him what this message is.
 - **You:** Good day, Micah! I heard you had some breaking news from God.

- **Micah:** Well, yes. Yes, I do. And it's a message for some of the leaders in Israel who are leading people in the wrong direction. You see, when they get their way, they are nice. But when they don't, they're mean!
 - **You:** Oh, my! That sounds like these leaders only care about themselves.
 - **Micah:** That's right. And God told me to let everyone know that if they keep this up, they won't be able to hear from God anymore. God won't give **them** breaking news because they don't listen to the things God says.
 - **You:** That's very sad. But what about you, Micah?
 - **Micah:** Oh, thankfully, God still speaks to me because I am trying my best to do everything God tells me to do, starting with telling people the truth – even if they don't really want to hear it.
 - **You:** That sounds like a hard job. But it's a very important job, isn't it?
 - **Micah:** Yes. But God wanted all the rulers and leaders in Israel to change some of the things they were doing. Some of them were unkind to people who needed their help, and instead, only helped people who gave them things! God told me to warn them that bad things could happen if they kept that up.
 - **You:** Wow. Thank you for sharing that breaking news with us, Micah. I hope these leaders listen up real soon.
- So, everyone, Micah's news might have made some of these other leaders upset. But they needed to hear that the things they were doing were not what God wanted.
- But here's the awesome thing about Micah and his news: Micah followed and listened to God. No matter what others did, Micah chose to stand up for what's right.

ACTIVITY | Micah Says

- Prophets like Micah would get important messages from God and share them with people. Then, it was up to the people to listen to the prophet's message from God.
- Let's see how well you can hear and listen!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to stand up with some space between them. The adult leader gives the kids instructions that they must follow (such as touch your head, spin around, jump up high, etc.), but only when the leader starts by saying, "Micah says . . ." If the kids follow an instruction that didn't start with, "Micah says," then they must sit down.

ACTIVITY | News Travels Fast

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to create paper airplanes out of newspaper and see how far their "news travels."

PRAYER | Dear God, thank you for being with us even when times are hard. Help us to trust you and to remember to always do what is right. Amen.

Breaking News – (PRESCHOOL)

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

ACTIVITY | Photo Op

- Here we are, back again with breaking news! Does anyone remember what a prophet is? That's right! A prophet brings people news from God.
- So, let's do some freestyle worship together! When the music is playing, dance and have fun. When the music stops, freeze in place so we can get pictures for our breaking news.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play an upbeat worship song. Tell the kids to dance, but when the music stops, they freeze in place. While they are "frozen," take pictures as though for a newspaper article. After you have taken pictures, resume the music. Repeat a few times. If possible, you might want to take a few real pictures and print them later with captions and post them in your space.

SCRIPTURE | Amos 5:18-24

TEACHING TIME

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recruit a family member to play the part of Amos. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the interview portion.
- Today, we're going to hear about a prophet named Amos. Just like the prophet, Micah, we heard about last week, Amos had some breaking news for everyone.
 - **You:** Hello, Amos! What does God want us to hear today?
 - **Amos:** (Sights.) Woe is me . . . woe is you . . . woe is everyone . . .
 - **You:** Woe? Doesn't that mean "sad?" Why are you sad? Should we be sad too?
 - **Amos:** Sadly, yes. There are some things that people have done to make God very sad.
 - **You:** Oh, no! Like what?
 - **Amos:** People worship and sing to God, but they really only care about themselves.
 - **You:** Wait, is God not happy about how people worship?
 - **Amos:** Correct. Their worship is not sincere.
 - **You:** "Sincere?" What does that mean?
 - **Amos:** It means real and true. God isn't happy with how people say they love god, but their actions don't show it at all.
 - **You:** That is terrible. How can people fix this?
 - **Amos:** By being fair and kind to others.
 - **You:** If we show God's love to others, that will make our worship sincere? So . . . worship is not just about singing and dancing, but about how we live our lives. Is that correct?
 - **Amos:** You got it!
 - **You:** Well, thank you, Amos, for bringing us that breaking news from God!

- God, through Amos, was letting the people of Israel know that they were not being sincere in their worship. They had forgotten to take care of each other and instead, chose not to help those in need.
- Worship has always been about living out the words we sing to God. That's what it means to be sincere.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) – *Be on guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be courageous. Be strong.*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you tell your kids the memory verse, change your voice. You can be loud and then soft. Deep and then high pitched. However you change your voice, tell the kids to repeat after you, mimicking the same voice.

ACTIVITY | Whole Heart

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a printable with a heart and a piece of construction paper. Instruct them to cut the construction paper into pieces, and then glue those pieces onto their heart.
- When we worship God, we need to do it with our whole heart. So, cut your construction paper (or tear it) into a bunch of pieces. The pieces of the construction paper represent the things that make a "whole heart" – our actions, words, thoughts, and feelings.
- Glue the pieces onto your paper until your whole heart is covered. Let this remind you **when you worship God, you can be sincere.**
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Pre-cut pieces of construction paper so the kids don't have to use scissors.
- While the kids are working, ask them these questions:
 - Which do you like more? Singing or dancing?
 - What was the name of this week's prophet?
 - Who remembers our Big Idea?

PRAYER | Dear God, thank you for the words you gave the prophet, Amos, and for showing us that our worship must be sincere. Teach us how to be kind and fair to everyone. Amen.

Breaking News – (PRESCHOOL)

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

ACTIVITY | Simon Says

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play Simon Says with the kids. Tell them to listen carefully to the directions. If the kids don't listen and are caught, they have to sit down.
- In today's story, we are going to see that there are consequences when we don't listen.
- Let's listen how long we can make it in the game without consequence!

SCRIPTURE | Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, 3:14-17

TEACHING TIME

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recruit a family member to help play the part of Zephaniah. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the interview portion.
- Today, we're going to hear from a prophet named Zephaniah.
- Zephaniah was a prophet who lived in a place called Judah. At that time, the people were paying more attention to other things and not God.
- Let's hear what Zephaniah has to say!
 - **You:** Hi, Zephaniah! So, I hear you've got a special message from God. What has God told you to share with us?
 - **Zephaniah:** God has sent me to tell everyone that tough times are up ahead.
 - **You:** How come?
 - **Zephaniah:** Well, God isn't happy when people put things before God. It makes God both sad and angry. So, God will take away everything that stands in the way of knowing God.
 - **You:** That sounds like really bad news!
 - **Zephaniah:** Yes, but if we let go of those things that break God's heart, we don't have to worry about anything. God will be happy. We can always count on God.
 - **You:** Phew. I'm glad there is good news. Thank you, Zephaniah, for those words from God.
- This sounds a lot like the breaking news from the stories we heard before! God told a prophet to warn everyone about what could happen because of their actions.
- Zephaniah called for the people to pay more attention to God instead of other things. That is something we can do too. Whenever we are upset or when we don't know what to do, instead of trying to find the answers ourselves, we can look to God first.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) – *Be on guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be courageous. Be strong.*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share the memory verse with your kids. Then work together to make up your own movements to go along with the memory verse. Repeat several times to practice the memory verse.

ACTIVITY | Trust Chain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut 4 strips of paper for each child.
- Let's make a paper chain to help you remember the Big Idea.
- On the first strip of paper help them write "when times", on the second, write "are tough", on the third write "I can" and on the fourth write "count on God".
- Connect the edges of the first strip, "When times," to make a circle. Then, loop the second strip, "are tough," through the first one and connect the ends of that strip. Next, add the third strip, "I can," and then the fourth strip, "count on God."
- Now, you have a chain to remind you **when times are tough, I can count on God.**
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Have an example chain already made with a certain color pattern. This will allow the kids to follow the color pattern since reading might be difficult.
- Discuss these questions with the kids while they are working or afterwards.
 - How was your week?
 - Has there been a time that things were tough?
 - What happened?
 - Did you know you can count on God to help?

PRAYER | Dear God, please help us to remember the words of Zephaniah. Help us to trust you no matter what is happening around us. Help us to remember that **when times are tough, we can count on you.** Amen.

Breaking News – (PRESCHOOL)

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:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

ACTIVITY | Follow the Leader

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell all of the kids to stand up. Play a few rounds of "Follow the Leader." Tell the kids to follow everything you do. If time permits, allow one kid to be the leader for a round.
- Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Today's prophet talks about following our leader. Who is our ultimate leader? Our leader is God! Before our next story, though, let's play a fun game that helps us be good listeners and followers.

SCRIPTURE | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

TEACHING TIME

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recruit a family member to play the part of *Ezekiel*. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the interview portion.
- Today, we're learning about the prophet, *Ezekiel*, who was from Judah. *Ezekiel* lived during a time when all of the people of Judah had been sent away to a place called Babylon because they were not honoring God.
- This already sounds like some bad news, but *Ezekiel* actually has good news! Let's see what he had to say:
 - *You:* Hello *Ezekiel*. We know that your people have been away from home for a long time. What does God have to say to them?
 - *Ezekiel:* God wants everyone to know that God will search for the lost and bring them back. God will heal the hurt and strengthen the weak. God will treat everyone the same.
 - *You:* Wow! Are there a lot of people who are hurt or lost?
 - *Ezekiel:* That's right. During my time, the leaders were not doing their job leading the people well. But God will take care of the people anyway.
 - *You:* That is good news. Anything else?
 - *Ezekiel:* God will come and make things right. No longer will the sheep be pushed around.
 - *You:* What sheep? Can you tell us more about that?
 - *Ezekiel:* We are the sheep. God is our shepherd. God will take care of us like shepherds take care of their sheep.
 - *You:* You heard it first here, everyone. Thank you, *Ezekiel*, for that good news from God!
- God spoke through *Ezekiel*, sharing a message of hope.
- Let's think about it like this: God is the shepherd, and the people are God's sheep. Sheep like to wander off or follow the wrong person by mistake. *Ezekiel* was saying that God will always find us, and that we will be led to where we need to be.

ACTIVITY | Guide Me

● **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the activity starts, ask another leader for help watching the group as you play. Go to one end of the room and put on a blindfold. Tell the kids they are going to help you make it from one end of the room to the other by giving you directions.

- I wonder if you can guide me.
- I am going to put this blindfold on and I want you to work together to tell me how to go to the other side of the room.
- Now remember, you have to keep me safe while you guide me.
- Whew! I'm glad I made it safely to the other side of the room. That was hard, wasn't it? It's a good thing we have God to help us when we are lost.
- When I am lost, God guides me.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) – *Be on guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be courageous. Be strong.*

● **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 1 Corinthians 16:13 out loud to the kids. Ask the kids to repeat the verse after you. Then, tell them to shout the verse with you. Next, tell them to whisper the verse quietly. Try other silly voices like squeaky voice, etc.

PRAYER | Dear God, thank you for being our shepherd. We sometimes feel like we've lost our way. When we feel lost, help us to remember that **when we are lost, you guide us.** Amen.

Breaking News – (PRESCHOOL)

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:** *Isaiah 64:1-9*

ACTIVITY | Keep the Balloon Up

- Today, we are going to hear about being faithful, or in other words, being someone people and God can count on.
- We are going to work together as a team and try to keep the balloon up in the air for as long as possible.
Remember, you can only hit the balloon once.
- Let's count and see how many times we can hit the balloon and keep it in the air!

SCRIPTURE | *Isaiah 64:1-9*

TEACHING TIME

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recruit a family member to play the part of *Isaiah*. Provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the interview portion.
- All month long, we have talked about prophets sharing breaking news with people around them. The news was usually about people turning from their selfish ways and turning back to God.
- Today, we will hear some news from the prophet *Isaiah*.
- We don't know much about *Isaiah*, but he did have a lot to say. Let's talk to him now!
 - **You:** Well, *Isaiah*, thank you for being with us today. What message has God given you to share with us?
 - **Isaiah:** God comes to help those who do right and follow God's way. But it doesn't make God happy when we continue to do what we want and make unwise choices.
 - **You:** I see. So God doesn't like it when we sin. What should we do?
 - **Isaiah:** Ask for forgiveness and begin to do what is right.
 - **You:** Ah, we need to ask God for forgiveness. We need to be faithful to God as God has been faithful to us.
 - **Isaiah:** That's right. God wants us to be people who can be counted on.
 - **You:** Thank you, *Isaiah*, for reminding us to be faithful to God, even when it is hard.
- God didn't think the actions of the people of Israel were all that great, according to *Isaiah's* message, but we see that *Isaiah* also reminds everyone of the good things God has done.
- Sometimes, when things are difficult, we have to remember the good things God has done for us and other people. They remind us that God is faithful.

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) – *Be on guard. Stand firm in the Faith. Be courageous. Be strong.*

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids to repeat each phrase of the verse after you like a cheer. Then, say it all together.
- We've been working on this verse all month and now we can celebrate by saying it like a cheer. Now, after I say each part of the memory verse, you repeat it after me.
- **Be on your guard;** (Pause for response)
- **Stand firm in the faith;** (Pause for response)
- **Be courageous;** (Pause for response)

- **Be strong.** (Pause for response)
- Good job! Now, let's say it all together.
- **Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.**

ACTIVITY | Pinky Promise Rings

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cut pipe cleaners in half. Give the kids two different colored pipe cleaners. Instruct them to twist the different color pipe cleaners around each other and loop them around their pinky. To accommodate the different sizes of the kids hands, you might have to cut the excess off or tie it.
- Have you ever made a promise to someone? Maybe you've even made a pinky promise! Those promises are real. Just like the promises God makes to us.
- Twist the two pipe cleaners around each other, and then loop them around your pinky finger to make a pinky promise ring.
- Now, I bet you're wondering why our pinky rings have two colors on them. **Does anyone have a guess?**
- One color represents God's faithfulness. God always keeps promises. The other color represents us. We need to be people who are faithful too.
- Remember: *I can be faithful like God is faithful.*

PRAYER | Dear God, thank you for always being there for us. Today, help us to remember that we can be faithful just like you are faithful to us. Amen.