David Becomes King

Week 1 (9/1)

We can rely on God.

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

We learned this week how all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron to anoint him as king. And we heard how David relied on God when he faced difficult situations. Like David, we need to turn to God and rely on God in everything we do (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk with your children about a time you faced a situation you couldn’t handle on your own. Maybe you had a fight with someone and needed someone else to step in and talk to that person in order to restore the relationship. Or perhaps you couldn’t pay a bill and you asked a family member for money. Tell your children what you learned about relying on someone else and how the situation worked out. Ask your children to share what they think it would look like to rely on God in that situation. Then encourage each family member to share a difficult situation he or she is facing. Talk about ways to spend less time worrying and more time relying on God in these situations.

God, we know you say that we can rely on you. Help us remember to turn to you first, as David did, when we face difficult situations. Thank you for loving us and caring about the details of our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that being kind honors God and others.
David Is Merciful to Mephibosheth

Week 2 (9/8)

Being kind honors God and others.

“God is our help.” (Psalm 46:1, adapted)

We learned this week that David showed kindness to Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth. David honored Mephibosheth by allowing him to eat at the king’s table and by giving him all that had belonged to Saul. We learned that when we’re kind, we honor God and others (2 Samuel 9). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk about a time someone unexpectedly showed kindness to you. Share how that kindness impacted you and your relationship with that person. Then ask your children to tell about times people have shown them special kindness—help with a difficult subject at school, willingness to teach a new skill, or a hug when needed, for example. Then talk about why God wants us to be kind to others and why showing kindness is so important.

Lord, thank you for David’s example of how to show kindness to others. Help us to be kind to each other in this family and to let that kindness overflow to the people around us so they’ll see you in everything we do. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God wants us to repent when we sin.
God Forgives David

God wants us to repent when we sin.

“God is our help.” (Psalm 46:1, adapted)

We learned how Nathan told David about a rich man who stole a poor man’s precious lamb. When Nathan told David he was that man, David broke down and asked God for forgiveness. We, too, need to repent and ask for forgiveness when we sin (2 Samuel 11:1–12:10; Psalm 51:1-12). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk about a time you hurt someone else and then had to ask that person for forgiveness. Share how that person responded and how you felt afterward. Then talk about a time you hurt someone and were unable or unwilling to ask that person for forgiveness. Share what your relationship with that person is like now and how not asking for forgiveness has impacted you. Talk with your children about the effects of not confessing sins to God. Discuss how God is willing to forgive us when we confess our sins to him. Emphasize that no matter the sins we commit, God will forgive us and give us a clean start.

God, thank you that no matter what sins we commit, we can confess our sins to you and you’ll forgive us. Right now we confess that we’ve done wrong and need your forgiveness. Please change us from the inside out. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that a self-centered attitude hurts God and others.
Absalom Rebels and Is Defeated

Week 4 (9/22)

A self-centered attitude hurts God and others.

“God is our help.” (Psalm 46:1, adapted)

We learned how Absalom thought he was so great that he tried to take the kingdom from his father, David. Absalom died in battle and the army who fought with him was destroyed. Absalom’s example shows that a self-centered attitude hurts God and others (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk about a time self-centered attitudes played a role in your family. What happened? Then encourage your children to think about ways they’ve seen family members demonstrate love, rather than self-centeredness, toward one another—by taking out the trash, shoveling the walk without being asked, putting away clean dishes, or taking time to give a brother or sister encouragement, for example. Give a rousing family cheer for each person as stories are told about him or her. Be sure no one is left out. Then talk with your children about how self-centered attitudes hurt God and others.

God, we don’t want to hurt you or the people around us by being focused on our own wants and desires. This week, show us how we can love and serve each other each day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God gives us wisdom.

Permission to reproduce this content granted for local church use.

Copyright © 2013 Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com
Solomon Asks for Wisdom
Week 5 (9/29)

God gives us wisdom.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” (Proverbs 3:5)

We learned today how God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered him anything he wanted. And we heard how Solomon asked God for wisdom in order to be a better king. Like Solomon, we need to ask God for wisdom (1 Kings 2:1-4; 3:3-28). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Discuss a time you needed God’s wisdom—but didn’t ask. Maybe you were trying to decide if you should change jobs, or maybe you weren’t sure how to handle a confrontation with a friend. What did you choose to do in the situation? What were the results? Share how you think asking God for wisdom might have affected the situation. Then ask your children to talk about challenges they’re facing this week in which they need to ask God for wisdom.

Spend time as a family praying and asking God for wisdom for each situation.

God, we know that you’re wise and you want us to come to you with our problems. We need your help with [name specific situations]. Please give us wisdom for how to deal with each of these situations. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek
Don’t miss next week when we discover that wisdom means following God’s Word.
Solomon Writes Many Proverbs

Week 6 (10/6)

We become wise by following God’s Word.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” (Proverbs 3:5)

We learned this week that Solomon’s wisdom was so great that people came from all nations to hear what he had to say. And we learned that Solomon said wisdom means following God’s Word (1 Kings 4:29-34; Proverbs 1:1-7). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Tell your children about the wisest person you know. Explain how you’ve seen this person be wise. How have you seen this person follow God’s Word? Discuss the choices this person made and why those choices showed wisdom. Talk about what you’ve learned from this person. Ask your children to tell you about the wisest people they know—and why. Encourage your kids to share with you any areas where they need God’s wisdom this week.

God, thank you for the Bible and the wisdom it gives us for our lives. Please help us seek you and your Word every day so we can live how you want us to. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that we need to be devoted to God.
Solomon Turns Away From God

Week 7 (10/13)

Be devoted to God.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” (Proverbs 3:5)

We learned this week how Solomon married many foreign women and worshipped their gods. God became angry at Solomon for disobeying his commands and turning away from him. From Solomon, we can learn that we need to be devoted to God (1 Kings 11:1-13). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk about something you’re really devoted to. Maybe you’re passionate about your job and spend a lot of time working at it. Or maybe you have a hobby that you know everything about and that takes up your time and attention. Then ask your kids to think about something they’re devoted to, such as a sport or a computer game. Encourage your kids to think about what it would be like if they spent the same amount of time and attention on God. Talk about ways your family could be more focused on God. Praying together, serving others, and going to church are all possible activities that could help.

Lord, you deserve our time and attention. Show us ways we can express our devotion to you. And help us get rid of things in our lives that take our attention away from you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that we need to choose to follow God.

Permission to reproduce this content granted for local church use. Copyright © 2013 Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com
The Kingdom Divides

Week 8 (10/20)

Choose to follow God.

“Do not worry.” (Matthew 6:31)

We learned that God promised Jeroboam a large part of the kingdom because he loved and followed God. Most of the tribes of Israel turned against Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, who was rebelling against God by worshipping idols. We, too, must follow God faithfully (1 Kings 11:28–12:24). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth with this easy idea.

Parents: If appropriate, share about a time you were rebellious toward God, including any negative consequences. Children can learn from your mistakes as well as from your successes. Then encourage your children to think about what the consequences of rebelling against God might look like in their own lives. Discuss as a family what it looks like to follow God faithfully and obediently. Ask each person to name one way he or she will commit to following God this week.

God, we choose to follow you. Sometimes we get caught up in our lives and forget to listen to your voice. Please help us hear you and follow you this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that we can trust God completely.
Elijah Helps a Widow

Week 9 (10/27)

Trust God completely.

“Do not worry.” (Matthew 6:31)

We learned this week how God used Elijah to bring a widow’s son back to life. And we discovered that even when circumstances look bad or even impossible, we need to trust God completely (1 Kings 17:7-24). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk with your children about a time you trusted God completely. Tell your children why you needed to trust God and what God did for you as a result of trusting him. Then allow your children to share any areas where they need to trust God. Maybe they’re worried about passing a class in school, or maybe they’re concerned about a relationship they have. Encourage your children to think about how trusting God can help in these situations.

Lord, we want to trust you completely. It’s scary to give up control and hand over our lives to you. Remind us that you’re already in control and that you care about us. Teach us to trust you without any reservations. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that we should choose to serve God.
Elijah Challenges the Prophets of Baal

Week 10 (11/3)

Choose to serve God.

“Do not worry.” (Matthew 6:31)

We learned how Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to prove that only God is real. We discovered that when only God was able to burn up the sacrifice, the people of Israel repented and chose to serve God instead of idols. Like the Israelites, we need to choose to serve God (1 Kings 18:16-40). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth with this easy idea.

Parents: Tell your children about a time you served God. What did you do and what was it like to serve God? Also tell your children about a time that someone served God by helping you. What happened and what was that like for you? Point out ways that you see your children serving around your home and encourage them by letting them know that these ways are also ways to serve God and one another.

God, you deserve every bit of our time and attention. We want to give our lives in service to you. Show us little ways we can serve you throughout each day and big ways we can serve you with our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that when we feel alone, God is with us.
God Speaks to Elijah in a Whisper

Week 11 (11/10)

When we feel alone, God is with us.

“Do not fear, God is with you.” (Isaiah 41:10, adapted)

We learned this week how Elijah hid in a cave because the people of Israel were trying to kill him for following God. God reminded Elijah that God was with him by speaking to him in a gentle whisper. Like Elijah, we need to remember that when we feel alone, God is with us (1 Kings 19:9-18). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk to your children about a time you were feeling lonely. Maybe you’d moved away from friends and family. Or maybe you were surrounded by people who just didn’t understand you. What helped you overcome your loneliness in that situation? How was God involved? Discuss how knowing that God is with you during lonely times will affect the next time you face a similar situation. Then encourage your kids to talk about times they’ve felt all alone.

God, thank you for never leaving us. Please remind us of that daily. When we feel lonely, teach us to turn to you. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God wants us to be faithful.
God Takes Elijah to Heaven

Week 12 (11/17)

God wants us to be faithful.

“Do not fear, God is with you.” (Isaiah 41:10, adapted)

We heard how Elisha refused to leave his master, Elijah. Because of Elisha’s faithfulness, God allowed him to see Elijah being taken into heaven by chariots. God blessed Elisha so he was able to perform many miracles as a prophet. We, too, must be faithful where God has placed us (2 Kings 2:1-15). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk to your kids about someone who is faithful to you. How has this person been faithful to you? Now talk about what it means to be faithful to God in the same way—to stay true, to never leave, to love him only. Point out ways that your family is faithful to God, such as obeying God, doing what's right even when it's hard, or going to church to learn more about God. Encourage your family to continue to be faithful to God.

Lord, we need you to teach us what it means to be faithful. And we need the discipline to be faithful when we’re feeling tired or lazy. Please help us be faithful this week in every detail of our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that God wants to help us with our problems.
Jehoshaphat Trusts God for Victory

Week 13 (11/24)

God helps us with our problems.

“Do not fear, God is with you.” (Isaiah 41:10, adapted)

We learned this week how Jehoshaphat sought God’s help when an army invaded Israel. God responded by telling Jehoshaphat that he would fight for the Israelites. So God caused the enemy to destroy themselves, and he gave the Israelites great riches. Like Jehoshaphat, we should trust God with our problems (2 Chronicles 20:1-30). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.

Parents: Talk about a tough situation where you trusted God. Perhaps you’ve recently dealt with an illness in the family or a tough financial time. What were the benefits of trusting God? What things prevented you from trusting God? How were you able to trust God through the difficult moments? Then talk with your children about things that prevent them from trusting God when they have problems.

God, we know you want to help us with our problems. Please help us trust you with [name a situation]. We give you this situation and ask you to fight for us just as you fought for the Israelites. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Our family thanks God for

Our family talks to God about

Sneak Peek

Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus does great things.