Little Pilgrims in God's World

by Jeff & Stephanie Dennison



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LITTLE PILGRIMS IN GOD'S WORLD

- 1. History–Juvenile literature
- 2. Social Studies-Juvenile literature

Scripture references are conformed to The Holy Bible, New King James Version ©1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc., so that modern readers may gain greater comprehension of the Word of God.

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Preface

t is never too early to concept of identity. From struggle with discerntheir role in this world is. help provide answers to discuss the power of our and what it means that this in His own image. The chil-

Lord willing, this book will those questions. We will God as seen in creation all-powerful God created us dren will see how wonderful our God is in how He provides for us and is even now preparing heaven for us to join Him there. Until God takes us home, we are called to reflect His glorious image within this creation. This is very difficult because of sin and temptation, but when we trust in God and have faith in His promises, we will be fulfilling our role in this world. The world will see this in the way we act towards our family, in the church, in school, and in society.

Clearly, these are issues of immense scope, and they could thoroughly intimidate and overwhelm a typical kindergartner. We have tried to be very sensitive to that legitimate concern and have explained many of the above themes through analogies and reinforced the themes through a broad range of activities. For your student(s) to get the most from this book, it is important that you work with them. While we tried to anticipate any issues that may arise, only the teacher can address the specific questions of the students.

In that vein, we strongly encourage you to supplement this curriculum with the teacher's manual. The manual provides detailed instructions regarding the activities, helpful hints for further study, and brief synopses of each lesson. In addition, we strongly recommend that you obtain the Little Pilgrims in God's World Activity Book, which contains much of the material needed for the suggested lesson activities.

Lastly, we pray that this curriculum will serve as an aid in helping your student(s) understand the wonderful joy and honor of being known and called one of God's special children.



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a very early age, children

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Unit 4 **The Little Pilgrim's Family**



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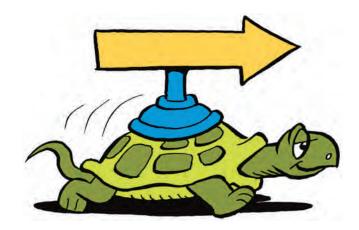
Lesson 29: Families and Sin

Mark 3:34–35 — And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, [Jesus] said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."

Your family is a blessing given to you by God. No one in the world loves you as much as the people in your family do. Sisters, brothers, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, and your parents are all a part of your family. You have had, and will have, many wonderful times with your family.

However, your family life is not perfect. If you have brothers and sisters, you have probably fought with them. You disobey your parents sometimes, and even your parents make mistakes. None of the relationships you have with any member of your family is exactly the way God wants it to be.

Your family life is not perfect because of Adam and Eve. As we learned before, Adam and Eve messed up *everything* when they sinned. They broke their relationship with God, they were driven out of the garden, and they had problems with each other. Later, when Adam and Eve started a family, they saw how bad things were.



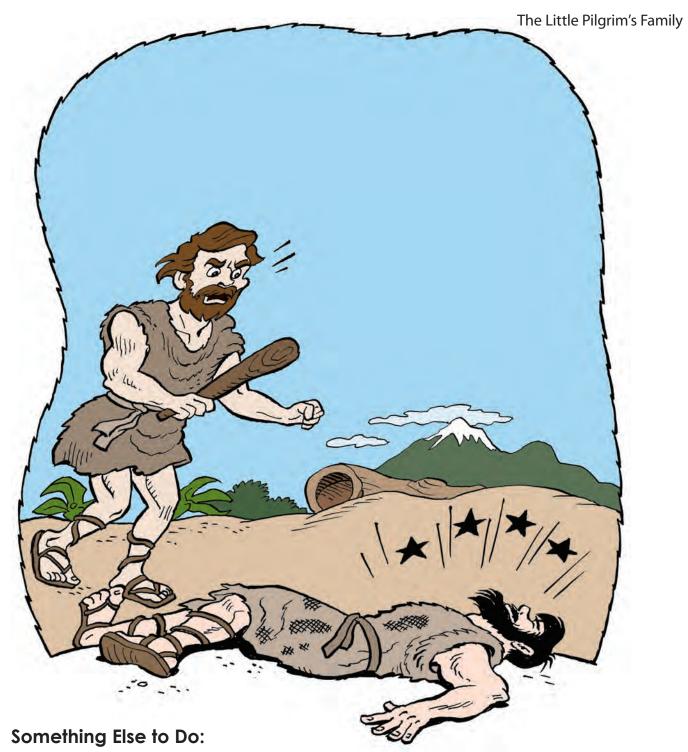
Their first two sons were Cain and Abel. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. One day they both brought sacrifices to God, but God only liked Abel's offering. Cain became very angry that God did not like his offering, and he killed Abel. When God asked Cain what happened to Abel, Cain lied and said he did not know.

Questions:

- 1. Who are the people in your family?
- 2. Adam and Eve had two sons named _____ and
- 3. Cain became angry with Abel and _____ him.

Activities:

- Draw a picture for someone in your family, telling him how much you love him and what you love about him.
- Turn to page 35 in the *Activity Book*. Color the picture of Cain and Abel.



Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.

Lesson 30: Selfishness

Matthew 22:37–40 — Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The bad relationship between Cain and Abel is just the first story in the Bible that shows how bad family life could be. There are the stories about Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his brothers ... and those are just in the first book of the Bible! Not one of these families could really get along with each other.

Every family has the same problem with one specific sin—selfishness. To be selfish means you care more about yourself than anyone else. Is that how we are supposed to behave? No, we should be servants in our families and take care of our loved ones *before* we take care of ourselves.

Think about what God has done for His special people. He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to save His children from their sins. The death of Christ shows what it truly means to be a servant (Philippians 2:5–8). That is how we should act towards our family, as well as other people. Can

you think of a Bible story about a person who served someone else?

The story of the Good Samaritan is an example of how we should treat others (Luke 10:29–37). The story is about a man who was robbed and beaten up while he was on a trip. Two people passed by him without helping him, but then a Samaritan man came by and helped him. He not only helped the man get somewhere safe, he also made sure that someone would take care of the man until he was completely better.

At the end of the story, Jesus tells the people listening that they should be like the Samaritan, *not* the two men who did not help the man who was beaten up. Now Jesus wants us to act like that Samaritan by wanting to help others and then making sure that the people we help get better.

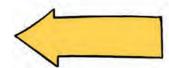
Questions:

No family is perfect because of _______.
 To be selfish is to care more about ______ than anyone else.
 To be a servant is to take care of ______ before we take care of ourselves.

Activity:

Turn to page 36 in the *Activity Book*. Put an "X" on the pictures that show someone being selfish.





Something Else to Do:

- Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.
- Cut out the vocabulary word and definition in the back of the *Activity Book*. Play the Memory Game with the words and definitions.
- Think of a way you can serve someone in your family; then do it.

Further Study:

Read the parable of the Good Samaritan from the Bible in Luke 10:30–37 as an example of someone who served others.

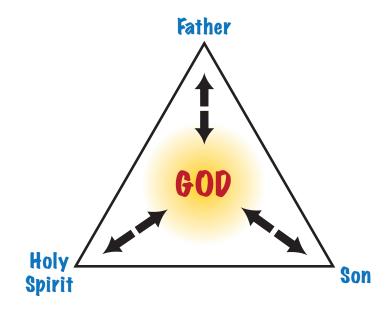
Lesson 31: The Trinity, the Perfect Family

Matthew 3:16–17 — When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

It is true that our relationships with our family are not perfect. However, there is a perfect relationship that should be an example for us to follow. That relationship is the relationship God has with Himself.

While there is only one God, He exists in three Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three Persons are called the Trinity. All three Persons are fully and totally God. However, each of the Persons has His own identity and job to do. Identity means that a person (or object) has certain traits or things that only belong to that person (or object).

Perhaps a way to understand the Trinity can be shown with water. Water exists in three forms—liquid, solid, and gas. We drink the liquid form of water when we are



thirsty. When water becomes very cold, it turns into a solid that we call ice. People use ice to keep things cold. However, when water gets very hot it turns into a gas that we call steam. You can see steam when your mother heats up a teakettle full of water on the stove.

Water is like the Trinity because each of the three forms of water has its own identity, but they are all still water. A glass of water is water, an ice cube is water, and steam is water—one substance in three different forms.

Using water to help us understand the Trinity may be helpful; but there is really no perfect example we can use. There is no perfect example because the Trinity is impossible for us to understand. In our minds, three cannot equal one. Think of it like this: if you have one apple in your

hand, would you say you have three? Of course, you would not say that. You have one apple, not three.

However, the Bible tells us that "One" equals "Three" when it talks about God. There is one God in three Persons. All three Persons are totally and completely one God. At the same time, each of the three Persons is totally and completely His own Person. Only God can understand this. Sometimes we just have to trust in what the Bible says without completely understanding it.

Questions:

- 1. There is only _____ God.
- 2. God exists in _____ Persons, called the Trinity.
- 3. Their names are God the _____, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Activities:

- Demonstrate and explain the Trinity using water as mentioned above using ice cubes, water in a teakettle, and water from the faucet.
- Fill in the other two Persons of the Trinity on page 38 in the *Activity Book*.





Something Else to Do:

Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.

Further Study:

Read 3 in 1: A Picture of God by Joanne Marxhausen.

Lesson 32: Working Together

John 14:26 — But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The Bible teaches us that there is one God: and this one God exists in three Persons. All three Persons exist in perfect relationship with one another. No one Person is more important than another Person is, and each Person has a special job. God the Father creates and commands, as we saw in creation. God the Son (who we call Jesus) serves God the Father by living perfectly and dying on the cross. God the Holy Spirit guides and protects God's special people. In the Old Testament, God's special people called the Israelites saw the Holy Spirit when they were in the desert. The Holy Spirit led them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Each Person in the Trinity has His own job to do, and no Person tries to do the other Person's job. The Father does His job, Jesus does His job, and the Holy Spirit does His job. They work perfectly together. That is how we are supposed to be with our family, each person doing his job as best as he can.



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Imagine if you tried to be the father of your family. You would have to go to work, pay the bills, and discipline the children. However, that is not your job as a child, is it? Your job as a child is to obey your parents. When each person in the family does do his or her job correctly, the family will be very happy because it is acting as God Himself acts. To act like God acts should be our goal in everything we do.



Questions: (Matching)

1. God the Father has what two jobs?

2. God the Son has what two jobs?

3. God the Holy Spirit has what two jobs?

To live perfectly and to die on the cross for our sins

To guide and to protect God's special people

To create and to command

Activity:

Fill in the jobs of Jesus on the Trinity Triangle on page 39 in the *Activity Book*.

Something Else to Do:

- Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.
- Make a list or chart of your jobs and responsibilities; or you may use the chart on page 40 of the *Activity Book*. Put a sticker or star beside the job once you complete it.

Lesson 33: Marriage



Ephesians 5:33 — Let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Do you remember what happened when God told Adam to name all the animals? When Adam was done naming the animals, he realized that none of the animals was like him. God did not want Adam to be lonely, so God created Eve out of Adam's body. Adam and Eve were the first husband and wife, and they started the first family.

God was not just concerned about Adam being lonely when He created Eve. God wanted Adam to know how much God loved him. Although God ruled over Adam, He also took care of Adam. Adam obeyed God's commands, trusting that God would take care of him. God wanted Adam to have this kind of relationship with another person. Therefore, God created Eve. Like God, Adam was to love and take care of Eve. Adam was supposed to rule over Eve by serving her and giving her whatever she needed. Like Adam, Eve was to submit to (or obey) Adam, trusting that he would take care of her.

As we know, however, Adam and Eve sinned, which affected their marriage. God still wanted marriage to be special. Marriage actually became *more* special after they sinned. God could show His special people how much He loved them even though they sinned and did not love and obey Him as they should.

Questions:

Wanting to show Adam how much He loved Him, God made _______.
 Adam was supposed to ______ and take care of Eve.
 Eve was supposed to submit to Adam,

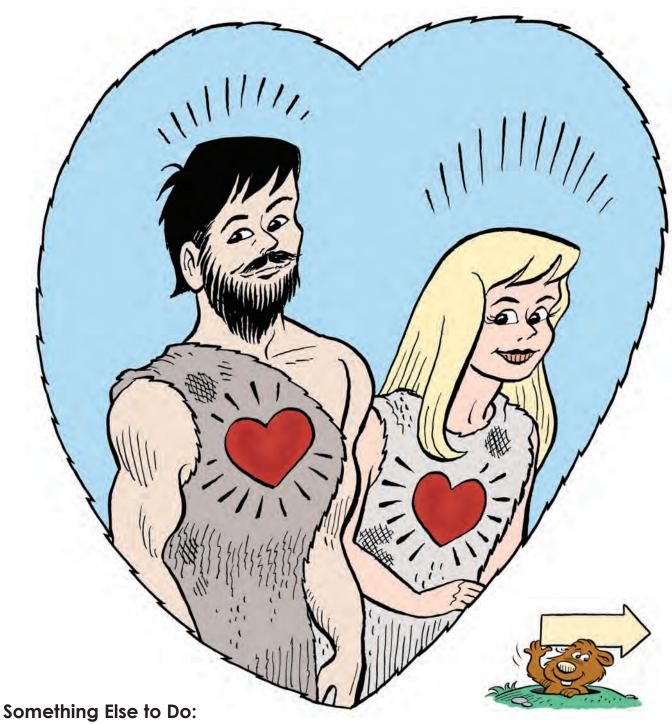
Activities:

her.

Turn to page 41 in the *Activity Book*. Color the picture of Adam and Eve in the heart.

_____ that he would take care of

Interview your mom and dad or married couple that you know about their marriage. Record the answers by using a video phone, digital camcorder, or some kind of recording device.



Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.

Lesson 34: The Bride



Ephesians 5:25–27 — Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Marriage is so special God often calls His special people His bride. A bride is another word for a wife. That means God wanted His special people to think of Him like their husband.

Adam was Eve's husband, and God is like our husband. God is the perfect husband, taking care of all of His special people's needs and always loving them. Even though His special people have let Him down a lot, God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to die for their sins. What a great husband God is! Because of what God has done for us, we should love Him more than anyone or anything else and obey His commands.

Following Jesus' example, a husband should be willing to give his life for his wife as Jesus did for His special people. Likewise, wives should love their husbands very much and obey them, just as Jesus obeyed His father. When they work together, the husband and wife show the whole world God's perfect plan for marriage.

Questions:

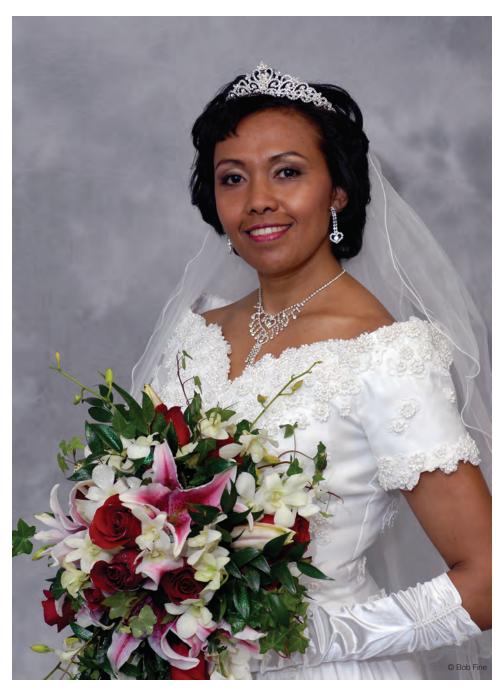
- 1. God created ______ to show us the love He has for us!
- 2. Husbands are to love their wives just as Jesus loves ______.
- 3. Wives are to obey and help their husbands just as God's special people are to obey_____.

Activity:

Turn to the middle of page 42 of the *Activity Book*, and complete the activity.

Something Else to Do:

- Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.
- Cut out the vocabulary word and definition back of the *Activity Book*. Play the Memory Game with the words and definitions.



Further Study:

Study the following passage on marriage: Ephesians 5:28–33.

Lesson 35: Parents

Ephesians 6:4 — Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

When God created Adam and Eve, He told them to "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28). When God told Adam and Eve to "be fruitful and multiply," He was telling them to have children. Then their children would have children, and so on. Adam and Eve's descendants (their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and so forth) were supposed to rule over the entire earth by moving into every part of it.

We have learned, however, that sin kept Adam and Eve and their descendants from doing the job that God gave them to do. We have learned that family life is hard because everyone in the family is sinful. Husbands do not perfectly lead their families well. Wives do not perfectly submit to their husbands. And children do not perfectly obey their parents. Everything is a big mess. It is such a big mess that it can be hard to remember how God wants a family to behave.

In Lessons 33 and 34, we learned how husbands and wives are supposed to behave. Many husbands and wives become fathers and mothers. It is as parents that they rule together over the children in the family. Parents are to treat their children as very valuable. They are to treat their children like God treats us, His children.

That means parents are to love their children more than they love themselves. They take care of their children, providing them everything they need. However, they also have to discipline, or correct the behavior of, their children when they do something wrong. This can be hard to understand. It does not seem like your parents love you when you get in trouble, does it? It hurts you when you get in trouble. However, God tells us that a father who loves his children disciplines them (Hebrews 12:5-11). Why does God say that? He says that because telling you that you have done something wrong and disciplining you for your sin helps you to stop doing that sin.

Questions:

- 1. When God said, "Be fruitful and increase in number," He is saying parents should have _____, if they are able.
- 2. Parents are to treat their children as treats us.
- 3. To discipline someone is to _____ his behavior.



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Activities:

- Parents are to love their children more than they love themselves. Think of ways your parents show you how much they love you. Think of a way to thank them for the love they give you.
- Turn to page 44 in the Activity Book. Color the picture of the child and his parents hugging.

Something Else to Do:

- Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.
- Cut out the vocabulary word and definition in the back of the *Activity Book*. Play the Memory Game with the words and definitions.

Lesson 36: Love and Discipline

Hebrews 12:6 — For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.

Think back to the piggy bank story. After you broke it, your parents disciplined you. They wanted you to remember that you had done something bad so that you would never do that again. Just think if you had not gotten in any trouble at all. You would have thought to yourself, "I guess it does not matter that I broke the piggy bank. Since they did not punish me for breaking their one big rule, I guess I do not have to follow *any* of their rules."

However, that is not what your parents did. Because they love you, they disciplined you. They know that if you learn to be good when you are young, you will be good when you are older. Your parents also know that if you respect and obey them, you will respect and obey God. They know this because God is the One who gave them authority over you. When they show love to you through care and discipline, your parents are showing you how God treats His own children. That is what God wants all His children to do—to show the whole world who He is and what He is like. Even the youngest of children can do that job.



Questions:

- 1. Just like God, parents discipline their children because they _____ them.
- 2. God gave your parents authority over you, which is why you should _____ your parents.
- 3. When you obey your parents, you are also _____ God.

Activity:

How have your parents obeyed God's command to "be fruitful and increase in number"? Use photographs or draw pictures of yourself and your brothers or sisters, if you have any.

Something Else to Do:

Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.

Further Study:

Discuss some of the rules your parents have in your house and how those rules show that your parents love you.



Lesson 37: Children

Luke 18:16 — But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

You may be wondering, "What can *I* do to be God's light in this world? I am so small and the world is so big!" You might even think that you are not that important; but that is not what Jesus thought. Jesus thought children were very important.

When Jesus was living on earth, some parents brought their children to see Him. Jesus' followers (who were called the disciples) were very annoyed with those parents. They probably told the parents, "Take your kids out of here! Jesus is very important, and He has more important things to do than talk to some children!" Jesus, however, did not like what His disciples told those parents. He told the disciples, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it" (Luke 18:16-17). What an amazing statement by Jesus! Do you understand what He was saying? He wanted the children to come to Him! Jesus saved God's special people from their sins, and He was telling His followers that they would not be able to go into

God's special home if they were not like children.

What did Jesus mean? Jesus was talking about trust. Do you remember what we learned about trust? Trust means that you believe in something no matter what happens to you, and children can trust better than anybody else can. Have you ever seen a father play with his child by tossing him or her up in the air? The child knows it is a game, and he thinks it is fun. The child is not afraid that his father will drop him because he trusts his father. He knows his father will not let him fall.

Questions:

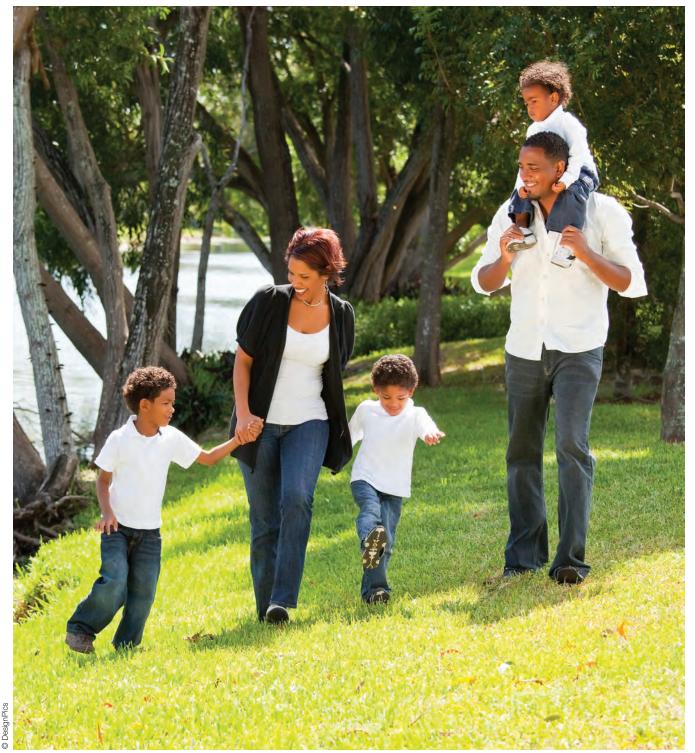
- 1. Jesus thinks _____ are very important.
- 2. When the disciples wanted to send the children away, Jesus wanted them to _____ to Him.
- 3. Children are good at ______, and that is what God wants us to do.

Activity:

Turn to page 46 in the *Activity Book*. Color the picture of the little children giving their hearts to Jesus.

Something Else to Do:

Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.



Lesson 38: God the Father

Deuteronomy 31:6 — Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.

As people get older, they trust less and less. People do not trust as much as they did when they were kids because other people leave them or hurt them. Maybe that child who trusted his father when he tossed him up in the air was hurt wrestling with his father when he was older. It would be hard for that child to completely trust his father again when they wrestled. When people stop trusting other people, they try to do more things by themselves.

That is *not* how God wants His special people to act. God has *never* left or forsaken His special people in the past, and He *never* will leave or forsake His people in the future. God said He would save His special people, and He did that by sending Jesus to die on the cross (Psalm 7:10). God said He would bring His special people to live in heaven with Him, and He will (2 Peter 3:13). If God said something will happen, it *will* happen. We may not totally trust other people, but we can totally trust God.

That is why *you* are such an important part of God's special people. You know how to trust. You are absolutely certain that God saved you from your sins. Your trust in God shows your parents and the other adults in your life what it means to trust. Your trust in God is how your light shines in this sinful world.

Questions:

- Jesus told His disciples they needed to become like little _____ Him.
- 2. We can _____ God and His promises.

Activities:

- Look up John 14:2, 3 in the Bible and write down the promise Jesus made.
- Turn to page 47 in the *Activity Book*. Draw a picture of what you think heaven looks like.
- Look up I Corinthians 10:13, and talk about how God helps us when we are tempted.

Something Else to Do:

Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.



Further Study:

Read Luke 18:15–17. Discuss what Jesus thought about children.

Lesson 39: Honoring Your Parents

Exodus 20:12 – Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

There are many stories in the Bible about how sin messed up families. As we have already learned, one of the first stories that we find in the Bible—after Adam and Eve sinned—is the story of Cain and Abel. One thing is the same in all those stories: people were the cause of all of the family problems—people who did not trust God!

Even David had family problems. The same David who had killed the giant Goliath became king over God's special people later in his life. He was very powerful and rich. However, one of David's sons named Absalom wanted his father's power and money. Thus, Absalom tricked many people into helping him attack his father, but David's men defeated Absalom. Absalom lost because he did not trust that God would give him what he needed. Absalom thought he could give himself what he wanted, but God judged him for not honoring his parents.

One of the most important ways that God wants children to show their trust in Him is by obeying their parents. It is so important to God that children obey their parents that He made it one of His ten big rules for His special people. These rules are called the Ten Commandments, and the Fifth Commandment is "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12). Honor means to obey and respect. God wants children to honor their parents because He gave their parents authority over their children. That means God wants parents to rule over their children as He rules over all. It also means that children should obey their parents as they obey God.

Questions:

- 1. Exodus 20:12 tells us to "_____ your father and your mother."
- 2. To honor means to _____ and respect.
- 3. We show our trust in God by _____ our parents.

Activities:

Turn to pages 48 and 49 in the *Activity Book*. Cut out the Bible verse on page 49, and color the word "honor." Glue the verse onto cardboard or poster board, and hang it in your room. Pray that God will help you to honor and obey your parents.



Cut out the cross bookmark on page 49 in the *Activity Book*. Next, glue the cross to cardboard or poster board. Then color and decorate it. Give the cross bookmark to your parents.

Something Else to Do:

- Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.
- Cut out the vocabulary word and definition in the back of the *Activity Book*. Play the Memory Game with the words and definitions.

Lesson 40: God's Children

3 John 1:4 — I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Before, we learned that God calls His special people His bride. Do you know what else God calls His special people? He also calls them His children, and we call Him our Father. He is the perfect parent who gives us everything we need. We are not perfect children, though. We make mistakes because we do not always trust our Father. That is why God sent His Son, Jesus.

Jesus was the perfect child. He completely trusted His Father, knowing that His Father would take care of Him. Even when things looked very bad for Jesus, He never stopped trusting Him. Jesus even died, trusting that His Father would bring Him back from the dead; and our Father did! Jesus rose from the dead, and now all of God's children will be raised up to meet their Father in heaven someday.

Since God is the Father to all His special children, all of His special children are brothers and sisters with each other and with Jesus! We are all members of one big family, and we should follow Jesus' example of how to act towards our siblings. Even though Jesus is God, He acted like the most

humble servant when He lived on earth. He treated all of His special brothers and sisters like they were more important than He was.

That is how you should treat your brothers and sisters. If you have older or younger siblings, you should serve them. You can help older siblings with chores. You can help younger siblings learn what you have learned about God's world. Even if you do not have siblings, remember that God's special people (the church) are your brothers and sisters. Be ready to serve them, as well!

If you are one of God's children, you should trust your Father and obey Him because of all He has done for you. To let the light of your Father shine in this dark world, obey your parents and serve your brothers and sisters. When you do these things, your heavenly Father will bless you more than you can ever imagine.

Questions:

- 1. _____ was the perfect child, completely trusting God His Father.
- 2. In following Jesus' example of how to act, we are to treat our siblings and others as more_____ than ourselves.
- 3. We can let our light shine by obeying our parents and _____ our brothers, sisters, and others.



Activities:

- Turn to page 51 in the *Activity Book*. Color the word SERVE.
- Talk about ways you can serve the following people: How can you serve your brother? Your sister? Your mom? Your dad? Your neighbor? Your friend?
- On page 51 in the *Activity Book*, color the picture of Christ's death on the cross. Talk about how Christ served His special people by dying and rising from the dead (Romans 5:8–11).

Something Else to Do:

- Cut out the Bible verse. Punch a hole in the upper left corner and add it to your metal ring.
- Using the list above on how to serve, put one of your examples into action and serve that person.



Unit 4 Vocabulary Words:

- selfish—to care more about yourself than anyone else
- **bride**—another word for a wife
- discipline—to correct bad or wrong behavior
- honor—to obey and respect