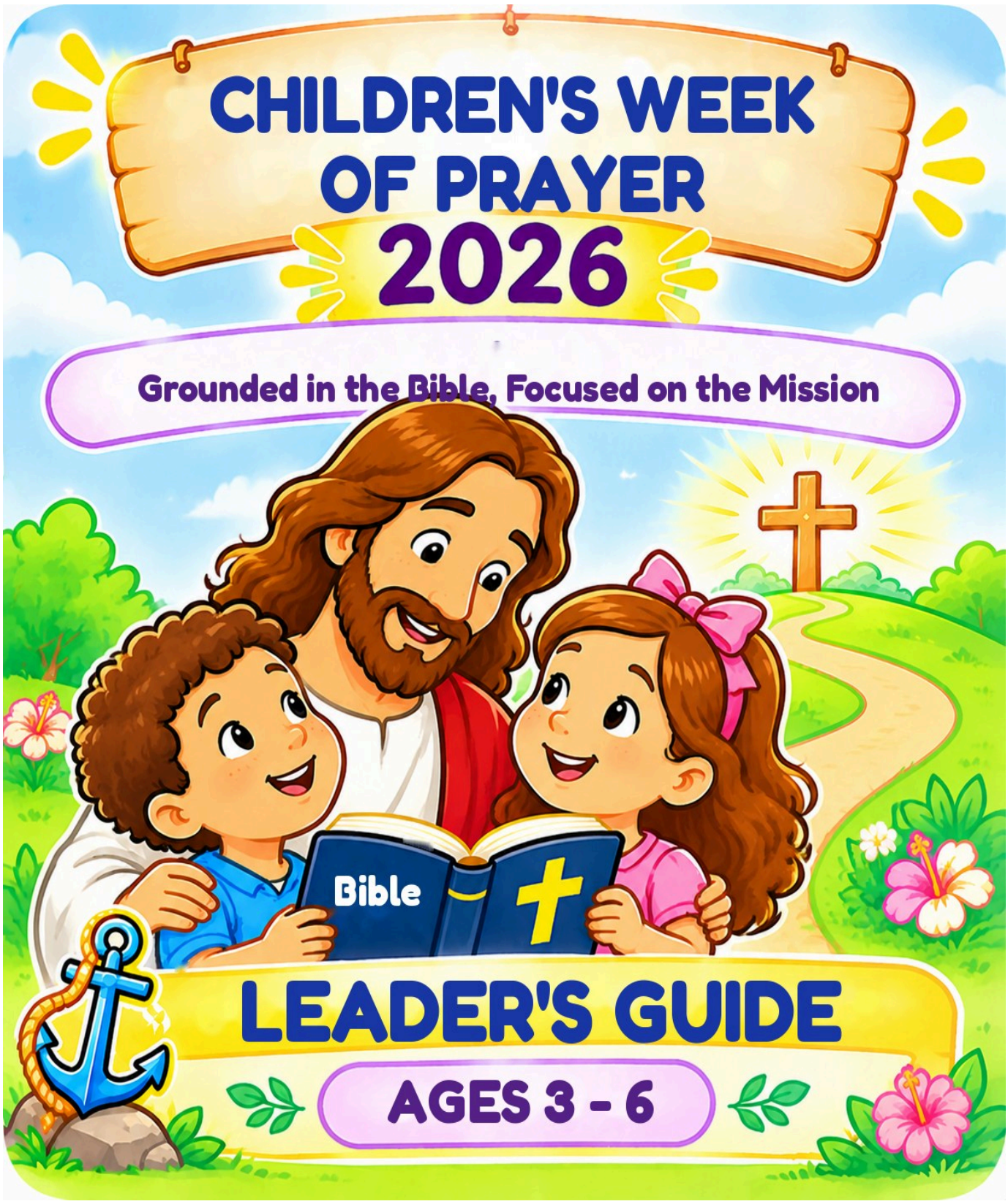

CHILDREN'S WEEK OF PRAYER
2026
Grounded in the Bible, Focused on the Mission
Bible
LEADER'S GUIDE
AGES 3 - 6

The 8 Sessions

First Sabbath	Anchored in the Scriptures
Sunday	Walk With God
Monday	A Little Is a Lot
Tuesday	Live Your Life for Jesus
Wednesday	Listen to the Holy Spirit
Thursday	Pray and Act
Friday	Share the Message
Second Sabbath	Love Like Jesus

God's Big Story

Creation	Fall	Redemption	Restoration

HOW IT WORKS — 3-6 BOOKLET

Little ones (preschool): all oral, with gestures and pictures. Tell the story; don't have them read it.

Every session follows the same path: we place the day (the "big story" timeline and verse), start with a hook, listen to today's story as the leader names the thread of grace, check and then go deeper with the questions, marvel with "Did You Know?", reinforce with a game and its debrief, respond to God through Quiet Time, carry it on at home, respond personally to Jesus, and wrap up.

The 4 Non-Negotiable Rules

- One level at a time: this booklet is designed for AGES 3-6. Use the right booklet for each group.
- No "pray and you'll be saved from danger" theology: God is with us whether the danger passes or not (the questions in bold correct this point).
- No pseudo-proofs: "Did You Know?" contains only verifiable facts (biblical, historical, literary).
- Grace before behavior: each day first says what Christ has done (the gospel) before what the child should do.

God's Big Story

Every session follows the same path: we place the day (the "big story" timeline and verse), start with a hook, listen to today's story as the leader names the thread of grace, check and then go deeper with the questions, marvel with "Did You Know?", reinforce with a game and its debrief, respond to God through Quiet Time, carry it on at home, respond personally to Jesus, and wrap up.

Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

How to read the timeline: at the top of each session, this timeline shows the four great moments of the Bible story, and today's step lights up in color (here, as an example, Redemption). Before reading the story, show it to the children and place the lesson: "Today, we are here." It helps the child see that each story does not stand alone, but is a piece of one great story that runs from Creation to the new creation, and that leads, all of it, to Jesus.

On the First Sabbath, all four steps light up together: this first session takes in the whole story at once.

Three Habits to Build

- Quiet Time is a daily habit to keep for life (talking to God, listening to Him, acting). Encourage the child to do it again every morning, even after the week.
- Verse collection: each day adds one verse to a collection of 8. Review cumulatively, and celebrate the complete collection on the Second Sabbath (a little certificate, applause, a snack).
- The invitation to respond to Jesus is offered, never imposed: leave a real silence, and respect each child's freedom.

Naming the Thread of Grace (for the leader)

Under each of today's stories, a line is titled "Thread of grace to name." It is not a passage to read to the children: it is a marker for you. In one sentence, it reminds you of the heart of the day's gospel, that is, what Christ has done, before what the child is invited to do.

Your job is to "name" it, that is, to say it out loud, in your own words, at two moments: right after today's story, to give the key to the story, and again before the invitation to respond to Jesus, so that

the child responds to a love already received. Put it simply, for example: “Today, above all, remember this…”, then link it to the question or game of the moment.

Why take this care? Because it is the most important rule of the booklet: grace before behavior. Without this reminder, the most beautiful story quickly turns into a moral lesson (“be good, be nice”). The thread of grace makes sure the child first hears what God has done for him, and only then what he can do in response.

An example. On Thursday, the thread of grace is “we pray with confidence because of the cross.” You can name it like this: “If we can talk to God without fear, it is not because we pray well; it is because Jesus, on the cross, opened the door for us.”

Avoid: don’t recite it as a fixed formula, and never turn it into “so be nice.” Name grace, then let the invitation come as a joyful response, never as a condition to meet in order to be loved by God.

The Game and Its Debrief

After each game, a “Debrief” line offers a short question that links the game to the day’s lesson. Don’t skip this moment: this is where the game stops being just fun and becomes a message the child remembers.

Two Invitations, Two Moments

Today’s story ends with an invitation in bold: it is the point of the message, the call that closes the story. Later, the “Invitation to Respond to Jesus” section is a second, calmer moment, when you invite the child to respond personally. The first concludes; the second opens a time of decision, always offered and never imposed.

What the Research Says: Two Priorities

Baptist (LifeWay) and Adventist (retention study) research agree: people almost never leave the church over a doctrinal disagreement (5%), but through drifting and a lack of relationships. And what best protects faith while growing up is not fine programs; it is two very simple things that this booklet aims at directly.

One adult for every child. Give each child a “prayer partner,” an adult from the church who prays for them, asks how they are doing, and greets them by name. It is the number one factor in perseverance. Have the “prayer partner” box in the activity book filled in on the very first day.

After the week. The week is pointless if the habits stop on the last evening. Launch the activity book’s “30 Days With God” challenge: each child keeps up Quiet Time (speak, listen, act) for a month, and on day 30 tells their prayer partner what has changed. Daily habits planted in childhood are the best predictor of a lasting faith.

FIRST SABBATH — Anchored in the Scriptures - Living God's Mission

● Creation	● Fall	● Redemption	● Restoration

MEMORY VERSE¶

"With God nothing will be impossible." Luke 1:37

¶Memory challenge: Learn today's verse (Luke 1:37). It's the 1st in your collection of 8!

Getting Started (the hook)

Pretend to be a little boat: rock when the leader "blows"! Then the leader says "anchor!" and everyone freezes. "What holds us when everything moves?"

Today's Story

Imagine you're on a little boat at night, and the waves rock you back and forth, back and forth. Are you a bit scared? But your boat doesn't drift away; it stays right where it is. Why? Look under the water: there's a big, heavy anchor, hooked deep down on the rock. That's what holds you, even if you can't see it. Life is like the sea: some days everything moves and we feel scared. But you have an anchor, and it's Jesus. He is stronger than all the waves, and He holds you tight. You don't need to be big or brave: He is the strong one, not you, and nothing is too hard for Him.

YOUR INVITATION¶

So when you're scared, hold Jesus' hand tight in your heart and say:
"Jesus, hold me; I'm with You."

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace
The anchor is Christ (not our effort); the whole Bible leads to Him — John 5:39; Ephesians 2:8-9.

Questions (check)

- What holds the boat? (the anchor)
- Can God use a child? (yes)

Discussion Questions

- Show with your hands: a rocking boat, then a boat held tight by its anchor. Which would you rather be?
- What do you want to do for Jesus?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK¶

The word "Bible" means "the books": it's not just one book, but a whole library of 66 books!¶ ***Source — from the Greek "biblia," "the books"; the Bible has 66 books.***

Have Fun!

Storm game: the children rock like boats when the leader "blows"; at the word "anchor!", everyone crouches down and freezes.

→ Debrief: After the game: "The boat holds because of the anchor, not its own effort. And who is our anchor?" (Jesus.)

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO¶

I speak to God: "Jesus, here I am."

I listen: Close your eyes: imagine Jesus saying your name with a smile. I do
(my challenge): Be kind to ONE person today.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: each look for your "anchor" and tell about a time when faith held you. Pray the verse together.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS¶

"Would you like to say yes to Jesus and start this adventure with Him? You can talk to Him right now, just like that." ***(Leave a time of silence; don't force anyone.)***

Wrap-up

You're not too little. As long as you breathe, God is calling you. Hold on to His Word, and go on mission with Him.

SUNDAY — Walk With God - And Let Him Lead You!

Creation	● Fall	Redemption	Restoration

MEMORY VERSE

"He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6 ***Memory challenge: Say the Sabbath verse, then learn today's (2/8).***

Getting Started (the hook)

Game: one child closes their eyes, and the leader gently guides them by voice to an object. "Is it easier listening, or on your own with your eyes closed?"

Today's Story

Do you know the game where you follow the leader and do everything just like them? Walking with God is a bit like that: God knows the way, and we stay beside Him, our hand in His. But sometimes we want to run ahead on our own and do things our way. A little girl named Abby wanted to zoom ahead on her bike, all by herself. And then, nobody was there. She felt lost and sad. But guess what: her mom ran off to find her right away! That's what God is like. Even when we wander off, He runs toward us to find us, because He loves us so much.

YOUR INVITATION¶

So stay close to God, your hand in His. And if one day you feel far away, don't be afraid: He is already seeking you. Say: "God, I want to walk with You. Hold my hand."

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace¶

God seeks us first; we respond to a love that came first — Luke 15; Romans 8:32.

Questions (check)

- Was Abby in front or behind? (in front, all alone)
- Who found her? (her mom)

Discussion Questions

- How did Abby feel when she was all alone? (show with your face)
- Who came looking for her?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK¶

In the Bible, a man named Enoch was such a friend of God that it says he "walked with God."¶
Source — Genesis 5:24 (Enoch walked with God).

Have Fun!

"Follow the shepherd" course: the leader walks with funny gestures; the sheep-children copy him in a line and stop dead when he stops.

→ Debrief: After the game: "What made trust possible? Listening to the guide. Our Guide is God."

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO¶

I speak to God: "Jesus, take my hand."

I listen: Imagine your hand in a big, strong hand: God's hand. I do (my challenge): Today, listen (to parents, leader) instead of rushing ahead.

AT HOME (for families)

Parents: tell about a time you "rushed ahead" of God and what you learned. Then take a short walk, hand in hand.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

"Will you let Jesus lead you today, instead of rushing ahead alone? Tell Him in your heart."

Wrap-up

God knows the way. Stay by His side and let Him lead; even on the hard stretches, He won't let go of you.

MONDAY — A Little Is a Lot - Nothing Is Too Small to Give to Jesus

Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

MEMORY VERSE

"Bring them here to Me," Jesus said. Matthew 14:18 ***Memory challenge: Review the 2 earlier verses, then add today's (3/8).***

Getting Started (the hook)

Show a single cookie. "There are [number] of us. Can this little cookie feed us all?" Let the children answer yes or no.

Today's Story

(Show a small piece of bread.) Look at this little piece of bread. Can we feed lots of people with it? No, it's tiny! One day, a huge crowd was very hungry, and there was almost nothing to eat. But a little boy had five loaves and two fish, his very own lunch. Instead of keeping them for himself, he put them in Jesus' hands. And do you know what happened? Jesus shared, and shared, and shared some more, and everyone ate all they wanted! With one child's little lunch, Jesus fed thousands of people.

YOUR INVITATION

Do you know why? Because Jesus is very strong, and because He is very good. He loves people, and He loves you. One day, Jesus even gave everything for you, because He loves you more than anything. So don't be afraid to give Him your little bit: a smile, a shared toy, a hug. Your little bit isn't magic; it's Jesus who is strong and loves you. Open your hands and say: "Jesus, I love You; here's my little bit, take it."

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

The true Bread is Jesus, given for us; we come with empty hands — John 6:35.

Questions (check)

- How many fish: 2 or 20? (2)
- Did everyone get to eat? (yes)

Discussion Questions

- Show with your fingers: how many loaves and fish did Nathan have?
- Would you have shared your lunch?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Twelve baskets of leftovers: more at the end than at first!¶ ***Source — John 6:13 (twelve baskets of leftovers).***

Have Fun!

Sharing game: each child gets a paper "loaf" and drops it into the leader's basket; the leader pulls out lots more (hidden ones) and hands them out. A "multiplication" effect!

→ Debrief: After the game: "Where did the bread come from? Not from us, from Jesus. Our 'little' in His hands becomes a lot."

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO¶

I speak to God: "Jesus, I give You my little bit."

I listen: Open your empty hands: imagine Jesus filling them.

I do (my challenge): Share one thing today (a toy, a candy, a smile).

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: make a "sharing" meal, and each name one small thing you can offer Jesus this week.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

"Will you offer Him your 'little bit' today? Open your hands and tell Him yes."

Wrap-up

Nothing you give Jesus is too small. You are the jar; Jesus is the treasure.

TUESDAY — Live Your Life for Jesus - Be a Witness

Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

MEMORY VERSE

"Be doers of the word." James 1:22 ***Memory challenge: Say the 3 verses you've learned in a row, then learn the 4th (4/8).***

Getting Started (the hook)

Show a picture of a yummy cake. "If I READ the recipe but don't do anything... does the cake appear?" No! (Act out disappointment.)

Today's Story

Tim knew all about fire: how it burns, how to put it out. His mom had made him promise never to play with matches. Tim knew all that by heart. But one day, he struck a match anyway, and the grass caught fire! Everything burned. Tim knew what was right, but he didn't do it. That evening, he was afraid of being yelled at. But his mom hugged him tight, because she loved him, even after what he had done.

YOUR INVITATION

That's how Jesus is with us. Knowing what is right isn't enough; we can't do it on our own. But Jesus loves us first, and He comes to live in our hearts to help us do good. You don't have to be perfect on your own. Tell Jesus: "Jesus, come live in my heart and help me."

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

We obey because we are saved, not to be saved; Christ lives in us — Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:20.

Questions (check)

- What did Tim play with? (matches)
- Was knowing the rules enough? (no)

Discussion Questions

- What shouldn't Tim have done?
- Did his mom scold him or hug him?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

You can tell a tree by its fruit: what we DO shows who we really are. ***Source — Matthew 7:16-20 (a tree is known by its fruit).***

Have Fun!

"We do it!" game: the leader names a good deed; the children ACT IT OUT. Then something we "say but don't do": we cross our arms and shake our heads.

→ Debrief: After the game: "Is saying a good deed the same as doing it? Today, we LIVE it."

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO

I speak to God: "Jesus, help me do what is good."¶

I listen: Think of a good deed you can do right now. I do (my challenge): Do that good deed today.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: choose ONE Bible teaching to put into practice together this week, and encourage one another.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

"Will you let Jesus live in you, instead of trying to be good on your own?"

Wrap-up

The way you live speaks of God louder than your words. You have only one life: live it for Jesus, not to be loved, but because you already are.

WEDNESDAY — Listen to the Holy Spirit - A Guide Who Draws Us to Jesus

Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

MEMORY VERSE
"He will guide you into all truth." John 16:13
Memory challenge: Review the first 4 verses, add the 5th (5/8). Tip: match a gesture to each verse.

Getting Started (the hook)

Gently blow on the children's hands, or wave a fan. "Can you see the air? No, but you can feel it!"

Today's Story

(The leader gently blows on the children's hands, then invites them to blow in turn and raise their open hands.) Can you feel that little breeze on your hand? You can't see it, but it's there. We never see the wind. We only see what it does: leaves dancing, your kite flying up, your hair moving. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is like the wind. You can't see Him, but He is right beside you, truly alive. And what does He do? He gently tells your heart about Jesus, and He helps you love, share, and forgive, things too hard to do on your own.

YOUR INVITATION
So open your hands as if to the wind and say: "Holy Spirit, breathe on me; show me Jesus." It's a prayer He loves very much.

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace
The Holy Spirit's first work: to show us Jesus and make us like Him — John 15:26; Romans 8:16.

Questions (check)

- In the poem, the Holy Spirit is like what? (the wind)
- Can we see the wind? (no, but we see what it moves)

Discussion Questions

- Can you see the wind? How do you know it's there?
- In the poem, the Holy Spirit is like what?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK¶
In the Bible, the same word means "wind," "breath," and "spirit" all at once!¶
Source — Hebrew "ruach," Greek "pneuma" (wind, breath, spirit).

Have Fun!

Wind experiment: each child blows on a paper pinwheel, or hold a feather race. “We can’t see the wind, but we can see what it does!”

→ Debrief: Afterward: “We couldn’t see the wind, but we saw what it did. Where do you want the Holy Spirit to work in you?”

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO¶
I speak to God: “Holy Spirit, help me choose what is good.”¶
I listen: Gently blow on your hand: God is here, even though you can’t see Him. ¶ I do (my challenge): Today, when you’re unsure, choose kindness.

AT HOME (for families)
In the evening: ask your child, “Where did you feel God at work today?” and share yours too.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS
“Will you invite the Holy Spirit to show you Jesus every day?”

Wrap-up

The Holy Spirit is our guide. He draws us closer to Jesus, and His voice never contradicts the Bible.

THURSDAY — Pray and Act - Prayer Moves Us to Act

Creation	Fall	Redemption	● Restoration

MEMORY VERSE¶
"Pray... and keep watch." (from Nehemiah 4:9)¶
Memory challenge: Say the 5 verses in a row, then learn the 6th (6/8).

Getting Started (the hook)

Show a seed and a watering can. "If I pray for the seed but never water it... will it grow?" No! We pray AND we act.

Today's Story

One night, there was a big storm: wind, rain, and boom, thunder! Big brother Bryce was still out on the road. At home, Mom and Dad were afraid for him. So they did the strongest thing in the world: they prayed to Jesus. And then Mom had an idea: "Quick, let's call Bryce!" They prayed AND they acted, and Bryce came home safe and sound. You see, when we're afraid, we can do two things: we pray, and we get up and act.

YOUR INVITATION¶
But listen carefully: praying doesn't mean we'll never get hurt. Sometimes the storm comes anyway. But Jesus never leaves us alone in the storm, never. He is always with you. When you're scared, tell Him: "Jesus, I'm scared; stay with me," then do what you can, without fear.

LEADER'S NOTE ·
Naming the thread of grace¶
We pray with confidence because of the cross; the great "pray and act" is Gethsemane — Hebrews 10:19.

Questions (check)

- What was the weather? (a storm)
- What were the parents doing? (praying)

Discussion Questions

- What did Bryce's parents do during the storm? (hands: we pray)
- Did Bryce make it home?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK¶
Nehemiah rebuilt a huge wall by praying... and working at the same time! *Source — Nehemiah 4:9 (he prayed and set a watch).*

Have Fun!

"Pray and act" game: at the signal "PRAY," hands together; at the signal "ACT," act out a good deed. Switch faster and faster.

→ Debrief: After the game: "We prayed AND acted. This week, where do you need to do both?"

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO

I speak to God: "God, help me and give me courage."

I listen: Think of someone who needs help.

I do (my challenge): Pray for that person, then do something kind for them today.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: go on a "prayer walk" around your neighborhood, praying out loud for what you see.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

"Will you trust God with what worries you, and follow Him into action?"

Wrap-up

Pray AND act. Prayer doesn't replace action: often, it moves us to act. And whatever happens, God stays with us in the storm.

FRIDAY — Share the Message - The Joy and Courage to Tell About Jesus

Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

MEMORY VERSE

"Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you." Mark 5:19 ***Memory challenge: Review the 6 verses, add the 7th (7/8). Almost complete!***

Getting Started (the hook)

Show a pretty, closed gift box. "There's a wonderful treasure inside! Do you keep it to yourself, or share it?"

Today's Story

When you find a treasure, or some really great news, you want to tell everyone, don't you? A little girl named Marguerite had a sad, heavy heart. One day, she heard the best news in the world: Jesus loves her, and Jesus died and came back to life to be her friend forever. Her heart felt so light, and she began to smile! And she couldn't keep it to herself: she told her friends, her family, everyone.

YOUR INVITATION

You have good news too: Jesus loves you! You don't need to be big or know everything to tell it. You just tell what Jesus has done for you. Who will you tell? Tell Jesus: "Jesus, help me tell a friend about You."

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

The message is Christ who died and rose: received by grace, shared with joy — 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

Questions (check)

- After knowing Jesus, was Marguerite happy or sad? (happy)
- Who gets a note? (her friend Sofia)

Discussion Questions

- Was Marguerite sad or happy after knowing Jesus? (show with your face)
- Did she keep the news to herself?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

"Gospel" means "good news"!¶ ***Source — from the Greek "euangelion," "good news."***

Have Fun!

Telephone game: the children whisper a short piece of good news ("Jesus loves you!") from ear to ear. At the end, compare: did the message travel well?

→ Debrief: After the game: "Did the message travel well? It's your turn to pass it on well, with joy."

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO¶
I speak to God: "Jesus, help me talk about You."¶
I listen: Think of someone you love who doesn't know Jesus. I do (my challenge): Tell someone today: "Jesus loves you!"

AT HOME (for families)
As a family: each tell "one thing Jesus has done for me," then together give a verse card to a neighbor.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS
"Will you be someone who shares the good news? Ask Jesus for courage."

Wrap-up

When we find a treasure, we want to share it. You have good news: Jesus loves you. Dare to tell it.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW¶To reread before the Second Sabbath message

Before the last session, take a moment to connect everything the children have experienced. This review helps you remind them of the road traveled, from Sunday to Friday, so they see the week as one whole and not eight separate lessons.

The whole week tells one single thing, a grace received that ends up overflowing, and it moves from the inside out, from hands that receive to lips that share.

It all begins on Sunday, when the child discovers that Jesus is the true Bread of Life and that he has nothing to offer but nearly empty hands, since it is Jesus, and not his merit, who satisfies. From this discovery comes Monday's question at once: if we have received, how do we live? Not by gritting our teeth, since knowing what is good is not enough, but by receiving a new heart and abiding in Him as the branch holds to the vine. Yet the child cannot produce this abiding by himself, and that is why Tuesday introduces him to the Holy Spirit, that invisible wind who shows him Jesus and ripens in him a fruit that no effort could ever make.

Once rooted like this, the child can be turned toward trials and toward others. So Wednesday puts his faith to the test of the storm, where it learns to pray and then to get up, and where, even when the tree falls despite prayer, the cross assures him that God is never absent. This grace, now strong enough to stand in the storm, overflows on Thursday even onto enemies, because whoever remembers being loved first while still an enemy can no longer keep that love to himself. And this overflow finally reaches its full measure on Friday, when the child, unable to keep quiet any longer, simply tells others what Jesus has done for him.

So the week moves from the Bread received on Sunday to the message shared on Friday. The first three days root, the last three send, and everything turns on Wednesday, when grace tested in the storm becomes strong enough to give itself away. First grounded in the Bible, then focused on the mission.

SECOND SABBATH — Love Like Jesus - A Funeral Called Off

Creation	Fall	Redemption	● Restoration

MEMORY VERSE¶

"Love your enemies." (Luke 6:27)¶ ***Memory challenge: Final challenge: say all 8 verses of the week, then celebrate (certificate, applause, snack)! (8/8)***

Getting Started (the hook)

"Raise your hand: is it easy to be kind to your friend?" (yes!) "And to someone who's mean?" (fewer hands...) "Let's see what Jesus does."

Today's Story

It's easy to love a kind friend. But loving someone who has been mean to you, now that's really hard! A man named Tembo had a neighbor, Juma, who made fun of him all the time. One day, Juma got very sick, and nobody wanted to go near him. Nobody, except Tembo. Tembo came to care for him, gently and kindly, even though Juma had been mean. And do you know why Tembo did that? Because Jesus had loved him first.

YOUR INVITATION¶

Jesus loves us even when we're not kind, and He wants to help us love others, even the hard ones. We can't do it on our own, but Jesus does it through us. Think of someone you find hard to love, and tell Jesus: "Jesus, love this person through me."

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

We love our enemies because God loved us when we were His enemies — Romans 5:8-10; 1 John 4:19.

Questions (check)

- Was Juma kind to Tembo at first? (no)
- Did Tembo help him? (yes)

Discussion Questions

- Was Juma kind or mean to Tembo? (show: thumbs down / up)
- Did Tembo go and help him anyway?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Jesus said people would know His friends by ONE thing: the way they love each other (John 13:35). ***Source — John 13:35 (all will know you by your love).***

Have Fun!

Make a "smile card": draw a big heart and give it to someone you don't get along with so well. Then everyone shakes hands.

→ Debrief: After the game: "Who will you give this act of love to this week, especially if it's hard?"

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO

I speak to God: "Jesus, help me love even people who are mean."¶ I listen: Think of someone you don't get along with.¶

I do (my challenge): Do something kind for them today.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: name someone who is hard to love, and decide on a concrete act of love to do together this week.

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

"Maybe Jesus is calling you to follow Him for real. Will you give Him your life? You can tell Him yes now, in your own words." ***(Leave real time; offer to pray with those who wish to, without pressure.)***

Wrap-up

Loving like Jesus means being good even to those who hurt us. We can't do it alone; we let Jesus love through us. That's how the world recognizes Him.