
CHILDREN'S WEEK OF PRAYER
2026
Grounded in the Bible, Focused on the Mission
Bible
LEADER'S GUIDE
AGES 7 - 9

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 — AGES 7-9

Middle group (primary school): simple reading, crafts, first discussion questions.

Each session follows the same path: we place the day ("big story" timeline and verse), start with a hook, listen to Today's Story where 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 7-9. 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

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Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

How to read the timeline: at the top of each session, it shows the four great moments of the Bible story, and the step for the day lights up in color (here, as an example, Redemption). Before 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 (speak to God, listen to Him, act). Encourage the child to do it again every morning, even after the week.
- Verse collection: each day adds a verse to a collection of 8. Review as you go, and celebrate the full collection on the Second Sabbath (small certificate, applause, snack).
- The invitation to respond to Jesus is offered, never imposed: leave a real silence, respect each child's freedom.

The Explorer's Notebook

Each day, the child keeps a "treasure" (the fact from "Did You Know?") in a small notebook. On the Second Sabbath, they present their collection: wonders of nature and reasons to trust the Bible. "Did You Know?" unfolds in steps: first the riddle (we search), then the wonder or the proof, then the bridge to Jesus, and finally we tell it to someone (what we can explain, we remember).

Naming the Thread of Grace (leader's marker)

Under each Today's Story, a line is headed "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, then again before the invitation to respond to Jesus, so that the child responds to a love already received. Say it simply, for example: "Today, remember this above all...", then link it to the question or game of the moment.

Why 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 them, and only then what they 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's not because we pray well; it's 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 linking the game to the day's lesson. Don't skip this moment: it's 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's the point of the message, the call that closes the story. Later, the "Invitation to Respond to Jesus" section is a second, quieter moment, where you offer the child the chance 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 drift and a lack of relationship. And what best protects faith while growing up is not fine programs; it's two very simple things 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're doing, and greets them by name. It's the number one factor in staying faithful. Have the "prayer partner" box in the activity book filled in on day one.

After the week. The week is useless 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), the 1st in your collection of 8!

Getting Started (the hook)

30-second challenge: hold a paper boat; the leader "blows up a storm," and it flies off. Attach a paper clip (the anchor) and a string: it holds. "And what holds us when life blows hard?"

Today's Story

Close your eyes for a moment. You're on a little boat, out at sea, in the middle of the night. The wind is cold, the waves pound, the boat rises up high and then crashes down. All around you, other boats are drifting toward the rocks. But not yours. Why? Lean over and look way down into the black water: a heavy anchor is wedged in the rock at the bottom. You couldn't even see it, and yet it has been holding you from the very start.

That moving sea is your life. Some days everything rocks: fear, teasing, big questions. So the real question is: what keeps you from drifting away? An anchor doesn't hold because of its weight, but because it grips something stronger than itself. Your anchor isn't your strength or your courage. It's Someone: Jesus, who died and rose again, stronger than every storm.

And here's the good news, the news that changes everything. You don't have to cling hard to Jesus with your little arms. He is the One holding you. On the cross, He gave everything to catch you and never let you go. Your hands may tremble, but the anchor doesn't move. The Bible is like the chain that links you to Him: every time you read it and pray, the chain grows tighter.

And never be afraid of being too small. God chose a young shepherd, David; a child, Samuel; a village girl, Mary. He chooses the small ones so that the strength comes from Him, not from them. What you need is not more strength; it's to stay holding on to Him.

YOUR INVITATION

So today, when life rocks, remember: your anchor holds, because you're not the one holding Jesus; Jesus is holding you. Tell Him: "Jesus, I'm holding on to You; hold me tight." And tonight, tell someone who your anchor is, and why it never lets go.

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)

- Why does an anchor hold? (it grips a rock stronger than itself)
- Who faced Goliath as a young boy? (David)
- Which verse says nothing is impossible with God? (Luke 1:37)

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever thought, "I'm too small for God to use me"? What does David's story say?
- Name someone young (in the Bible or around you) whom God has used.

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: what keeps a big tree from falling over in a storm?

The Wonder: Its roots, hidden underground! They often spread out wider than the tree itself.

Bridge to Jesus: What holds us is hidden too: Jesus and His Word. We are "anchored" in Him.

Source (for the leader): International Society of Arboriculture (isa-arbor.com): roots often spread well beyond the crown.

Have Fun!

Make a sword-shaped bookmark with your verse written on it, to slip into your Bible.

→ 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, use me this week, even though I'm small."

I listen: Think of the anchor: what do you cling to when life is hard?

I do (my challenge): Today, spot someone to help, and do it without being asked.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: each find 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, quite simply." (Allow a time of silence; don't force anyone.)

Wrap-up

You're not too small. If you're breathing, 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

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart... and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Memory challenge: Recite the Sabbath verse, then learn today's (2/8).

Getting Started (the hook)

Blind guide game: one child is blindfolded; another guides them by voice alone around obstacles. Do it again without listening to the guide: disaster!

Today's Story

From the very beginning, God hasn't first asked us to do great things for Him, but to walk with Him, by His side. Not far behind, not rushing ahead. And on this path, the real danger isn't tiredness; it's the way we walk.

There are two ways to fall out of step with God. The first is to rush ahead, deciding everything alone, to prove we can do it. The second is to walk with our eyes on others, comparing ourselves all the time: "Am I better than him?" Both make us stumble, because we stop looking at our Guide.

A little girl learned this on a bike. Abby was the youngest, always at the back. One day, on a church ride, she found herself in front on a downhill, and she loved it. She begged her mom to let her race ahead. "All right," said her mom, "but stay where I can see you." Abby only heard the yes. Off she went, one bend, two bends, and suddenly, not a sound, no one. She was alone, and her stomach tightened. By going so far ahead, she could no longer hear anyone who loved her.

But the story doesn't end there. When Abby finally stopped, she saw someone running toward her: her mom, who hadn't waited, who had set off at once to find her. And here's the most beautiful part, the thing Jesus told about: when a sheep gets lost, the shepherd leaves everything to go and find it, and the father runs to meet his child coming home (Luke 15). We are called to walk with God, but when we wander off, He is the One who runs toward us. That's exactly what Jesus did for you: while you were far away, He came looking for you, all the way to the cross.

YOUR INVITATION

So don't rush ahead, and don't spend your time comparing yourself. Walk beside God, your hand in His, for He has promised: if you trust Him with all your heart, He directs your steps (Proverbs 3:5-6). Today, tell Him: "God, I want to walk with You, not ahead, not far away, but by Your side." And tonight, tell someone what God does when we get lost.

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

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

Questions (check)

- Why did Abby get lost? (she went too far, alone, without listening to the guide)
- What will God do, according to Proverbs 3:6, if we trust Him? (He will direct our paths)

Discussion Questions

- Do you ever want to do it all your way, without listening? Tell us.
- Why was Abby sad, even though she got what she wanted (being in front)?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: can a little butterfly find a forest thousands of km away without a map?

The Wonder: Yes! The monarch follows the sun like a compass. God gave it a guide on the inside.

Bridge to Jesus: God can guide you too, even when you don't know the way.

Source (for the leader): Monarch Joint Venture; Nature Communications journal (monarch sun compass orientation).

Have Fun!

Maze (2024 activity book format): find the way to Jesus, then color the right path yellow (the "light" of the verse).

→ 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, show me Your way today."

I listen: Think of a time when "rushing ahead" went badly. What did God want to teach you?

I do (my challenge): Before a decision today, stop for 3 seconds and ask: "Jesus, what would YOU do?"

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 so in your heart."

Wrap-up

God knows the way. Stay by His side, 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

He said, "Bring them here to Me." Matthew 14:18

Memory challenge: Review the 2 previous verses, then add today's (3/8).

Getting Started (the hook)

Put a small bread roll on the table. "How many people can we feed with this?" Write a few answers on the board; we'll check at the end.

Today's Story

Evening was coming, and five thousand people were hungry. They had walked all day to hear Jesus, and now there was nothing left to eat, and no shop for miles. Jesus' friends were worried: how could they feed all these people? It was impossible.

In the crowd there was a boy. Let's call him Nathan. In his bag he had five small loaves and two dried fish, his own meal. "Five loaves for five thousand people, that's no use," he thought. And yet, when he was brought to Jesus, Nathan did a brave thing: instead of keeping his meal, he held it out to Jesus (John 6:9).

Jesus took the five loaves, thanked God, and began to share them. And here's the amazing part: the bread didn't run out. They gave and gave, and everyone ate as much as they wanted. At the end, they gathered the leftovers: twelve full baskets! Nathan's little bag had gone out empty, but twelve baskets came back full.

Remember the secret of this story. It wasn't the five loaves that fed the crowd; five loaves are never enough. It was Jesus' hands that took them. And God didn't choose a rich baker with sacks of flour; He chose a child's little meal, so that everyone would see the miracle comes from Him, not from us.

But there is something even greater in this story. Some time later, Jesus said an amazing thing: the true bread, the bread that feeds the heart forever, isn't the bread on the hillside; it's Him, Jesus. And to give us that Bread, He agreed to be broken on the cross, the way you break bread to share it. Nathan had offered his little meal; Jesus offered His whole self, for you. That's why you can trust Him with your little bit without fear: the One who asks for your five loaves has already given everything, first.

YOUR INVITATION

So what do you have in your bag? Maybe you think: "I'm too small, I've got nothing important to give." That's not true. A smile, a little time, a helping hand, a coin, a prayer: those are your five loaves. Put them in Jesus' hands and watch what He does with them. Today, tell Him: "Jesus, here's my little bit; take it and do with it what only You can do." And tonight, tell someone, in your own words, what Jesus did, and above all who He is.

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

the true Bread is Jesus, given for us; we come empty-handed — John 6:35.

Questions (check)

- How many loaves and fish? (5 and 2)

- Who shared his meal? (Nathan, a child)
- How many baskets of leftovers? (12)

Discussion Questions

- Why is it hard to share when you have very little?
- What did Jesus do with Nathan's little meal?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: is the seed of the world's biggest tree huge or tiny?

The Wonder: Tiny, like an oat flake! And it becomes an 80 m tree: the giant sequoia.

Bridge to Jesus: Your "little bit" given to Jesus can become very big, like this seed.

Source (for the leader) — U.S. National Park Service, nps.gov (giant sequoia seed and size).

Have Fun!

"My Offering Basket" craft: fold a paper basket, cut out 5 loaves and 2 fish, and on each one write something you can offer to Jesus.

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

QUIET TIME — my personal time with God

SPEAK · LISTEN · DO

I speak to God: "Jesus, here's my little bit. Take it and make it big."

I listen: Think of a talent you have. Picture it in Jesus' hands.

I do (my challenge): Today, give someone a small thing without being asked.

AT HOME (for families)

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

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

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

Wrap-up

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

TUESDAY

Live Your Life for Jesus And Be His Witness

Creation	Fall	● Redemption	Restoration

MEMORY VERSE

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22

Memory challenge: Chain the 3 verses learned, then learn the 4th (4/8).

Getting Started (the hook)

Recipe in hand: "I read it out loud, very well. But if I do nothing, do I get a cake?" Knowing isn't doing.

Today's Story

Nobody at school knew as much about fires as Tim: how a fire starts, how to put it out, what to do if your clothes catch fire. His mom had made him recite the rules a hundred times, and promise just one thing: never play with matches. Tim promised. But deep inside, a little wish was smoldering: to see, just once, the flame between his fingers. One day, he slipped a box of matches into his pocket. One afternoon, in a field, he struck one. The flame burned his fingers, he dropped it, and the dry grass caught fire. The field burned, and the old barn too. Tim was safe and sound, but all he wanted was to disappear.

Understand this: God didn't light that fire to punish Tim. Dry grass burns, that's all. But there's something worse than the blackened field: Tim knew what was right better than anyone, could recite it with his eyes closed, and didn't live it. Knowing wasn't enough. Knowing is never enough.

And here's the trap to avoid. We might think the lesson is: "Grit your teeth, try harder, and then God will love you." That's wrong; it's actually the opposite. No child, no adult, manages to live well by willpower alone. Deep down, we all carry that little ember. What we need isn't a tougher will; it's a new heart, which only Jesus can give.

That evening, Tim expected shouting. His mom held him in her arms for a long time, crying because he was alive. That's grace: it doesn't pretend evil isn't there (the field really did burn), but it loves us before we even deserve it. And it's that love received, not fear, that changes a heart. That's why Jesus died and rose again: to come and live in you and change your heart from the inside.

YOUR INVITATION

So don't grit your teeth. Living for Jesus isn't becoming good enough for Him to love you; He already loves you. It's letting Him live in you. Tell Him: "Jesus, I can't do it on my own; come and live in me." And tonight, tell someone why knowing what's right isn't enough.

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 had Tim promised? (never to play with matches)
- Which verse tells us to put the word into practice? (James 1:22)

Discussion Questions

- Tim could recite the rules better than anyone. Why wasn't that enough?
- Name something you KNOW is right but is hard to do.

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: what happens to a muscle that's never used?

The Wonder: It gets very weak! Astronauts must exercise 2 hours a day to stay strong in space.

Bridge to Jesus: Faith is the same: you have to LIVE it, not just know it.

Source (for the leader) — NASA, nasa.gov (muscle and bone loss in microgravity, ~2 h of exercise/day).

Have Fun!

Coded verse to crack (2024 activity book format): each letter = a number; decode James 1:22.

→ 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 LIVE what I know, not just say it."

I listen: In silence: "Is there something I know is right, but don't do?"

I do (my challenge): Choose that very thing and do it today, even if it's hard.

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 Leads 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)

Wave a fan or a piece of cardboard. "We can't see the air, but we see hair moving. Today: Someone invisible whom we feel at work, the Holy Spirit."

Today's Story

There's something you've never seen, and yet you know it very well: the wind. Nobody has ever seen the wind. We only see what it does: leaves dancing, trees bending, a kite climbing, cool air on your cheek. And yet nobody doubts it's there. One day, Jesus used this picture to talk about Someone we can't see either: the Holy Spirit, invisible and very much alive.

Maybe you wonder what He is for. People often think He's there mainly to scold us when we do wrong. He does warn us, that's true, but that's not His greatest work. His greatest work, Jesus said it: "He will testify of Me" (John 15:26). In other words, the Holy Spirit never talks about Himself; He takes you by the hand and shows you Jesus. Every time your heart warms up as you think of Him, that's God's wind blowing in you.

And how can you know if an idea really comes from Him? It's simple: the Holy Spirit never contradicts the Bible, because He inspired it. The better you know Jesus' voice in His Word, the more you recognize it deep inside, just as you recognize your mom's voice in a crowd.

And when this wind blows through a heart that listens, it makes beautiful things grow there, gently, without forcing: love, joy, peace, patience. The Bible calls this the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). You don't have to make it on your own by gritting your teeth; you just have to let Him blow.

YOUR INVITATION

So today, open your hands the way you open them to the wind, and tell Him: "Holy Spirit, blow on me, show me Jesus, and grow in me what I can't do on my own."

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)

- What do the words ruach and pneuma mean? (wind, breath, spirit)
- What is the Holy Spirit's greatest work? (showing us Jesus)

Discussion Questions

- How do you know if a good idea really comes from the Holy Spirit?
- Why does reading the Bible help you recognize His voice?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: can you feel something you can't see?

The Wonder: Yes: air and wind! Invisible, but they make trees sway and sails fill out.

Bridge to Jesus: The Holy Spirit is like the wind: invisible, but we can clearly see what He does.

Source (for the leader) — NOAA, noaa.gov (air pressure and movement).

Have Fun!

Word search: fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control), 2024 format.

→ Debrief: Afterward: "We didn'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, teach me to recognize Your voice."

I listen: Be still for a moment: what good thought is God whispering to you?

I do (my challenge): When facing a right/wrong choice today, ask: "Does this look like Jesus?"

AT HOME (for families)

In the evening: ask your child, "Where did you feel God at work today?" then share yours.

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 brings 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

"We made our prayer to our God, and... we set a watch." Nehemiah 4:9

Memory challenge: Recite the 5 verses in a row, then learn the 6th (6/8).

Getting Started (the hook)

Seed + watering can: "Praying for the seed but never watering it: does it work?" We pray AND act.

Today's Story

The sky had turned completely black, and the radio kept saying: violent storm, stay at home. But Bryce, the big brother, was still on the road, alone at the wheel in the rain. At home, his mom was pacing. His dad put a hand on her shoulder and said, "Let's do the only thing that really matters. Let's pray." And they knelt while the storm roared outside.

As she prayed, the mom felt an urgent thought rising: "Call him, now." The dad dialed the number, and far away, Bryce's phone rang just as a tree came crashing down in front of his car. Bryce kept a cool head, went around the tree, and got home safe and sound. See how God answered: not with a magic flash, but by touching the heart of a mother on her knees. That's almost always how He works, through very simple actions. That's why praying never excuses us from acting; on the contrary, it moves us to act.

But the dad was honest, and that matters. He didn't say, "We prayed, so nothing bad can happen to us." He said the opposite: sometimes we pray with all our heart, and the tree falls anyway. People who love God go through illness and sorrow. That never means God wasn't there. How do we know? Because of another night, in another garden.

The night before the cross, Jesus was so afraid that He sweated. He prayed too: "Father, Your will be done." And the cup did not pass away; He went all the way to the cross, to save us. God didn't spare His own Son the storm; He went through it with Him. And three days later, Jesus came out of the tomb alive! So when our own storm breaks, we are never alone, and we know the storm won't have the last word.

YOUR INVITATION

So when your sky grows dark, remember the two actions faith never separates: pray, then get up and act. Tell God: "I'm trusting You with what worries me, and I'll do my part." And tonight, tell someone why we're never alone in the storm.

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 did the mom do right after praying? (she had Bryce called)
- Which verse talks of praying and setting a watch? (Nehemiah 4:9)

Discussion Questions

- The mom prayed, then what did she do? (she acted)
- Why do "praying" and "acting" go together?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: in the middle of a hurricane blowing very hard, what is at the center?

The Wonder: A very calm place called "the eye," sometimes even with blue sky!

Bridge to Jesus: With God, we can have peace in our hearts, even when life is "stormy."

Source (for the leader) — NOAA – National Hurricane Center (hurricane eye).

Have Fun!

Build Nehemiah's wall: in teams, stack "bricks" (boxes, cups) as high as possible, but with only one hand each (the other one "keeps watch")!

→ 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, show me what to do, and give me the courage to do it."

I listen: Think of a worry you're carrying. Hand it over, then ask: "And what is my part?"

I do (my challenge): Pray for someone today, then do something practical for that same person.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: go on a "prayer walk": 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

"Go home to your friends, and 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): the collection is almost complete!

Getting Started (the hook)

Closed box = the "treasure." "If you had the best news in the world, would you keep it to yourself, or want to share it?"

Today's Story

Marguerite was eleven, and for some time now a weight had pressed on her heart in the evenings, though she didn't know why. One day, a neighbor took her to a meeting. She went mostly to get out of the house. But there, someone told news so beautiful that at first she thought it was too good for her. Long, long ago, Jesus, the Son of God, died on a cross to carry all the wrong in the world, even Marguerite's weight. And three days later, He came out of the tomb alive, stronger than fear, stronger than death.

What moved her most was that He loved her, just as she was, before she had changed a single thing. That evening, she talked to Jesus for the first time. The weight didn't vanish like magic, but she no longer carried it alone, and her laughter came back. Her parents couldn't believe it.

From then on, she couldn't stop talking about it: to the girls in her neighborhood, to her family, to the lady at the market. Some made fun of her; it took courage, and she didn't hide it. But others listened, and one day, two whole families came to the meeting because of her. Her, Marguerite, who had no diploma and didn't yet know the whole Bible!

She had been afraid she wasn't good enough, until she read the story of a man Jesus had healed. This man wanted to leave everything to follow Jesus everywhere, but Jesus asked something simpler: "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you" (Mark 5:19). That's all we're asked: not a big speech, not knowledge learned by heart, just sharing what we've received.

YOUR INVITATION

You too have received good news: Jesus loves you, and He died and rose again for you. You don't have to be an expert to share it; you tell your story. Today, tell Jesus: "Give me the courage to talk about You." And this week, tell one person just one thing Jesus has done for you.

LEADER'S NOTE · naming the thread of grace

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

Questions (check)

- What does the word "gospel" mean? (good news)
- Which verse says to tell what the Lord has done? (Mark 5:19)

Discussion Questions

- What changed in Marguerite's heart?
- Why is it sometimes hard to talk to others about Jesus?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: how does a bee tell her friends where the flowers are, without talking?

The Wonder: She dances! Her little dance shows the direction and distance of the flowers.

Bridge to Jesus: You too can "tell" your friends the good news: Jesus loves them!

Source (for the leader) — NC State Extension; Karl von Frisch, Nobel Prize 1973 (honeybee waggle dance).

Have Fun!

"Treasure to share" craft (idea from the 2024 activity book, improved): make a small box, write verses on decorated cards, and give it to someone this week.

→ 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, give me the courage to talk about You."

I listen: Finish this in your head: "What Jesus has done for me is..."

I do (my challenge): Give someone a verse card, or tell them your sentence.

AT HOME (for families)

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

INVITATION TO RESPOND TO JESUS

"Do you want to be someone who shares the good news? Ask Jesus for courage."

Wrap-up

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

The Whole Week in Summary

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 they have nothing to offer Him but almost empty hands, since it is Jesus, not their merit, who satisfies. From this discovery comes Monday's question at once: if we have received, how should we live? Not by gritting our teeth, since knowing what is right 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 themselves, and that is why Tuesday introduces the Holy Spirit, the invisible wind who shows them Jesus and ripens in them a fruit no effort could ever make.

Once rooted in this way, the child can turn toward trials and toward others. So Wednesday puts their faith to the test of the storm, where it learns to pray and then to stand up, and where, even when the tree falls despite prayer, the cross assures them that God is never absent. This grace, now strong enough to hold in the storm, overflows on Thursday even onto enemies, for whoever remembers being loved first while still an enemy can no longer keep that love to themselves. 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 them.

So the week goes 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.

THE WEEK IN SUMMARY

To reread before the Second Sabbath message

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

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SECOND SABBATH

Love Like Jesus A Funeral Called Off

Creation	Fall	Redemption	● Restoration

MEMORY VERSE

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." (Luke 6:27)

Memory challenge: Final challenge: recite the week's 8 verses, then we celebrate (certificate, applause, snack)! (8/8)

Getting Started (the hook)

"It's easy to love a friend. What about someone who made fun of you?" Keep the question for Tembo's story.

Today's Story

Tembo loved Jesus, and it showed. He was helpful, gentle, always ready to lend a hand. In the village, almost everyone loved him. Almost everyone, except Juma. Juma had hated him from day one, for no reason. He mocked him and made up stories about him. Every cruel act was like a little splinter. Tembo could have paid him back blow for blow, and some evenings he wanted to. But he thought of Someone who, nailed to a cross by His enemies, had prayed: "Father, forgive them." So Tembo prayed, and stayed kind.

One day, terrible news came: Juma was seriously ill. A wound had become infected, and the smell filled the house. Little by little, everyone stayed away: the neighbors, the friends, even his family. Nobody wanted to go near Juma. Nobody, except Tembo.

At the door, Tembo hesitated; the smell turned his stomach. A voice inside him said, "Why? This man has hurt you so much." But another, deeper voice answered, "And what were you when God came looking for you?" For the Bible says something incredible: "When we were enemies we were reconciled to God" (Romans 5:10). Tembo, too, had been God's enemy, and God had loved him anyway. How could he keep to himself a love he had received for free? He pushed the door open and went in.

He cleaned the wound with his own hands, and returned day after day. And under this care, two things were healed: Juma's body, and his heart. One morning, Juma whispered, "My own people were waiting for me to die. And you, my enemy, came to save me. Why?" Tembo smiled: "Because Someone did that for me, first." The funeral they had been preparing never happened. Instead, there was a man made well, and two enemies who had become brothers.

YOUR INVITATION

This isn't willpower; nobody can force themselves to love like that. It's grace received, then given back. That's why Jesus could ask what seems impossible: "Love your enemies" (Luke 6:27). It's possible on one condition only: first being yourself the enemy whom God loved first. Today, think of the person you find hardest to love, and ask Jesus to love them through you. This week, do something kind for them, and tonight, tell someone why we can love even an enemy.

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)

- How did Juma treat Tembo? (mockery, lies)

- What did Tembo do when Juma fell ill? (he cared for him, paid for his care)

Discussion Questions

- Why was it so hard for Tembo to help Juma?
- What changed in Juma's heart in the end?

Did You Know?

A TREASURE FOR THE NOTEBOOK

Riddle: Guess: can a little fish swim into a big predator's mouth without being eaten?

The Wonder: Yes! The cleaner fish cleans the teeth of big fish, and they leave it in peace.

Bridge to Jesus: Loving sometimes means drawing near even to those who could hurt us, like Jesus did.

Source (for the leader) — Univ. of Miami, Shark Research & Conservation; Royal Society, Proc. B (cleaner fish).

Have Fun!

Secret kindness challenge: in teams, list 5 kind things you could do today for someone "not easy," then each choose one to carry out.

→ 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, love through me, especially those I find hard to love."

I listen: Remember: God loved you first, before you deserved it.

I do (my challenge): Do something kind today for a difficult person.

AT HOME (for families)

As a family: name one person who is hard to love, and decide on a practical 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."

(Allow real time; offer to pray with those who wish, without pressure.)

Wrap-up

Loving like Jesus means being kind 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.