

What do you believe?

2 Timothy 1:1-18, 2:1-13, 4:6-8

Memory Verse

*“God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ...it is God's gift.”
--Ephesians 2:8 (NIRV)*

Message

Learn, love and live your faith.

Talk About It

Talk with your child about what your faith means to you. Share your “faith journey” and help your child to understand how you arrived at where you are today with your faith. (Remember, children only see you today. They have no idea what happened over the years to make you who you are.) Talk about it together.



World Religions – Part 1

Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 4:7-11; John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 3:8-9

Memory Verse

“In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you.” --Matthew 7:12 (NIRV)

Message

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Talk About It

Read through the following information before coming to class.

<u>Judaism</u>	<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Islam</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Called “Jewish” or “Jews”- “Yahweh”, but expressed as usually “Adonai (i.e. “Lord”)- Believe in only one God.- The Torah (1st 5 books of Moses in the Bible) is the foundation of the Jewish doctrine.- The people of “Israel” are the chosen people (chosen by God and obligated by the Torah)- Believe in an “end time”, including the return of the Jewish people to the land of their fathers.- Await the “Messiah” as a ruler sent by God.- Believe in the resurrection of the dead for judgment.- Star of David is the symbol of Jewish Congregations.- Judaism is mostly found to be practiced in Israel, USA and Europe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Called “Christians”- “God” or “Lord”- Believe in the Trinity, or God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.- Study the Holy Bible, Old and New Testament.- Believe that God already sent His son Jesus to earth who died for our sins.- Believe that Jesus will come again to take home the Bride of Christ.- Believe in the afterlife.- “Cross” is the universal sign of Christianity.- Christianity has spread all over the globe, due to the work of missionaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Called “Muslims”- “Allah” (Arabic for God.) is God.- Use the “Koran” as a cornerstone of their religion.- “Kabah” is the main holy place in Mecca.**- Islam is mostly practiced in North and East Africa, Middle East, and East Europe and Western Asia. <p>Islam requires fulfillment of the Pillars of Islam (five duties):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allah is the only God; Muhammad is His prophet.- Say a ritual prayer 5 times a day.- Support the Needy- Fast during the month of Ramadan- Make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life.



Talk About It – Continued

Judaism, Christianity and Islam have one thing in common: **they all believe in the same God.**

In today's lesson we learn about three major religions, all of which believe in God. Talk with your child about being kind to others, no matter what. Challenge them to practice the commandment of "love your neighbor as yourself" each day, no matter who they interact with, no matter what they believe, no matter if they are Jewish or Christian or Muslim, or any other religion. We never want to criticize someone's beliefs. We want to always be positive and share what God has done for our lives. Talk about it.



World Religions – Part 2

1 Corinthians 9:19-22; James 3:1-12; James 5:7-20

Memory Verse

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
-- Ephesians 4:32 (NIRV)*

Message

Live your faith each day.

Talk About It

Read through the following information before coming to class:

Hinduism	Both	Buddhism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Religion originated in India, today also in Pakistan, Nepal, and other middle Asian countries.- Nature Religion, not based on an individual founder- Worship many gods (animals, gods, things)- The Veda – the Holy writings of the Hindus (written in Sanskrit) much of which is on the “eternal world law”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Believe in Reincarnation (animals, people, gods, etc.)- Belief that everything follows a birth to death cycle- Law of Karma (everything comes back to you – good deeds to goodness, evil deeds to evil, either during your current or “future” life.- Believe in Nirvana – escape for reincarnation (considered the greatest freedom)- Do not believe in God	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Founded on Indian prince Siddhartha Gautama “Buddha”- 4 Noble Truths: (all about “Misery”)<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Truth of misery2. Truth of the origin of misery3. Truth of the elimination of misery4. Truth that the elimination is the result of a methodical way that must be followed.- Wheel of Teaching (8 spokes symbolize the path of teaching that leads to Nirvana, the goal of redemption)- Has Spread in Asia- Emphasis on Tolerance for everyone- Believes that one can only achieve self-redemption as a monk.

Talk About It – Continued

In the Bible verses of today's lesson we read about doing good things, being a light and setting an example. Talk together about these things. Remind your child that since we are *Christians*, we *DO* believe in God. *Therefore, we must do as our Heavenly Father tells us and be a light to the world and do good things to others, no matter what they believe. This is how we "live our faith."* Talk about it.



NAC Worldwide

Galatians 5:13; Matthew 20:28; 1 Peter 4:10

Memory Verse

"I said, 'Here I am. Send me!'" --Isaiah 6:8 (NIRV)

Message

Find a way to serve others.

Talk About It

Read though the following:

Original Intentions of Missionaries:

- Teach others about Christianity (God, Jesus, etc.)
- Help others with their daily living (food, water, shelter.)

Today, our Apostles, brothers and sisters, and other ministers are still doing missionary work in many countries all over the world. Because of the work done by missionaries in the past hundreds of years:

- People are already familiar with God, Jesus and the basic beliefs of Christianity.
- Bibles have become available in many different languages for the inhabitants of the countries to be able to read and learn independently.

Our Apostles as missionaries are able to:

- Baptize souls with water and dispense the Holy Spirit through Holy Sealing.
- Offer help when necessary with their daily living (food, water, shelter, etc.)
- Work to prepare the people for the return of the Lord Jesus.

In today's lesson we learn about the importance of serving others. Try to brainstorm to together with your child, ways they can serve others every day. If possible, challenge your child to find one way to serve someone else before the day ends. Maybe that means doing something at home, or just asking someone what they can do to help them. Don't forget that it might be hard work—but God has told us to serve others. We need to find a way to serve others. Talk about it.

Tolerance and Conformity

Daniel 3:1-29 and Daniel 6:1-28

Memory Verse

“...live together in peace. Be understanding. Love one another like members of the same family. Be kind and tender.” --1 Peter 3:8 (NIRV)

Message

Respect the differences of others.

Talk About It

Talk together about things we are required to conform to in our lives (for example: rules at school, follow the laws of the government, etc.). No matter what, we all have situations where we are required to “obey” or follow rules of some sort. Sometimes it can be difficult to know when to conform or “obey”, and when to stand firm in our beliefs. Talk together with your child about how sometimes it is difficult to know the right thing to do. Remind him that we always want to obey our Heavenly Father and we do that by obeying His commandments. No matter what situation we face in life, we can always take a look at the commandments God gave us. They will help you determine what is right and what is not. And when you know what is right, stand your ground and stand firm in your beliefs.

Also, remind your child that we want to treat people who are different from us with tolerance, and see that they too are loved by God. Whether their appearance or opinions or religion is different, we want to have tolerance. We expect others to respect our religious beliefs and our faith, and how we choose to practice our faith, and therefore we must do the same to them. We must respect the views of other people and we always need to respect the differences of others. Talk about it.

Community and Fellowship

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Memory Work

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

--1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIRV)

Message

Gather and grow.

Talk About It

In today's Bible text, we learn in a very unique way about the body of Christ and how we each have a part in it. Talk with your child about how we belong to the congregational community. We need to think about what doing "our part" means. What is our part? What can we do to help? Children often think they are too young or that they do not need to help along yet because others can do it. Encourage your child to always look for ways they can help along in your congregational community. Brainstorm together a few things he can do every week. Talk about it.



Holidays and Special Services/Thanksgiving

Matthew 6:25-34, 1 Timothy 6:17, and 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Memory Verse

“Give thanks no matter what happens.” --1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV)

Message

In all things give thanks.

Talk About It

The pilgrims long ago had to endure some very difficult times, and yet they remembered to take time to thank God for all He had provided for them. Remind your child that God today is still the same God. He wants us to be happy and He gives us many things to enjoy each day. Share with your child the 4 ways to show God if we are truly thankful for what He has provided for us:

- 1. How we look.*
- 2. The way we act.*
- 3. What we say to others.*
- 4. The way we feel inside.*

Remind your child that we need God’s blessings in our lives, and this starts with a thankful heart. We always want to “Give thanks no matter what happens.” Talk about it.

Spiritual Habits - A Relationship with God

Psalm 42:1-2, Genesis 3, Exodus 40, 1 Kings 5, and John 1

Memory Verse

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

--Psalm 42:2 (TNIV)

Message

God wants a relationship with YOU.

Talk About It

God's presence in our lives is something we should want to have. It is not enough that He is a part of our life—but we want God to BE our life. Our life should center on Him. Talk together with your child about the "independent Bible reading" from the lesson above. We know from scripture that God walked in the Garden with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). We also know that God commanded ancient Israel to construct a tabernacle so His presence could dwell there (Exodus 40). Later, a temple was built, and in it was the Holy of Holies, where the presence of God would dwell (1 Kings 5). Most importantly, God came to earth to dwell with us when He sent His Son Jesus (John 1). God wants to have a relationship with you. The question is, how badly do we want to have a deeper relationship with Him? God loves us right where we are. But that doesn't mean He wants us to stay there. He desires for us to grow. We want to grow into a deeper relationship with God. Talk about it.

Spiritual Habits – Studying the Bible (Part 1)

Genesis 2:7-22, Genesis 12:1-7, Exodus 3:1-10, Acts 9:1-8

Memory Verse

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..." --2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

Message

Develop the habit of reading your Bible.

Talk About It

If we want a closer relationship with God, we need to develop the habit of reading and studying the Bible. Talk together and try to come with a plan to help develop this habit with your child. When can you do it? For how many long can you do it each day? What is your plan? Challenge your child to begin practicing at home this week the habit of studying his Bible. Remind him that we want him to develop the (permanent) habit of reading his Bible. We want him to continue to draw closer to God each day. Talk about it.



Spiritual Habits – Studying the Bible (Part 2)

1 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 15:4, Acts 2:36-37, Hebrews 12:11

Memory Verse

“By using Scripture, a man of God can be completely prepared to do every good thing.”

--2 Timothy 3:17 (NIRV)

Message

Take time each day to learn from the words that were inspired by God.

Talk About It

We can learn from today’s Bible verses that the Bible is good for everything in our lives: teaching, improving, correcting, and instructing. But how do we apply what we read in our Bibles to our lives? Talk with your child about how every time they read a passage or verse in the Bible; it is important to ask himself “What should I do?” “What do I need to do about what I just read?” For this week, encourage your children to ask themselves: “How can I put this into practice TODAY?” when they are done reading their verse(s). Talk about it.



Spiritual Habits - Prayer

Matthew 6:5-13, Acts 1:14 & 2:42, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Mark 1:35, Mark 6:46, Matthew 6:6

Memory Verse

***“The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together.
They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed.”
--Acts 2:42 (NIRV)***

Message

Never stop praying.

Talk About It

Remind your child that we want to live a life full of prayer. We learned in today’s lesson to never stop praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Talk with your child about how everyone has “automatic” reactions to things in life. If our parents get onto us, we often rebel. If a teacher is hard on us, we shut down. If a friend is mean to us, we feel hurt. What if your “automatic reaction” in every situation was to pray? What if, instead of having a formal prayer for every situation, you were constantly in conversation with God in your heart? Talk about this together with your child. How do you think that would change your relationship with God? Talk about it.



Christmas

Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2

Memory Verse

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."
--Romans 12:6 (TNIV)*

Message

Share your gifts.

Talk About It

Talk together with your child about how receiving spiritual gifts from God is in a way like receiving a gift at Christmas. Everyone gets a present and the gift is specifically designed for that person. Help your child to discover what his spiritual gifts might be and how he can use them to serve God. Tell your child that God does not want us to keep our gifts to ourselves. That is not why He gave them to us. We are given our spiritual gifts to help us to serve Him in our lives each day. Talk about it.

