



# BRING IT HOME

Conversation starters to continue at home what began at Immanuel.  
Our desire is to see families use this resource  
as you live out Deuteronomy 11:19.

**UNITS 16-18 | Winter (Dec 25-Feb 26)**

# the **GOSPEL** **GOD'S PLAN FOR ME**

gos-pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



## **GOD RULES.**

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. *Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17*



## **WE SINNED.**

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*



## **GOD PROVIDED.**

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. *John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*



## **JESUS GIVES.**

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! *Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9*



## **WE RESPOND.**

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10, 13*

# UNIT 16:

## HOPE FOR CAPTIVES

The people were far away from the land God had given them, but they were not far from God. The Lord was with His people even while they were in exile. He watched over them and promised that they would one day return to the land. When they did, they would return to Him as well.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How can we glorify God?

We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

### KEY PASSAGE:

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.



## AT HOME RESOURCES

# December 7 | Session 1

DANIEL OBEYED GOD | DANIEL 1



## STORY POINT:

Daniel was faithful to God, and he was blessed with wisdom.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

Daniel was faithful to obey God, even in the small matters like eating the correct foods. Jesus was faithful to obey God in every way. When we trust in Jesus as Savior, God credits us with the perfect life Jesus lived.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- In what ways was Daniel faithful to God?
- How did God reward Daniel and his friends for their obedience?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Use your Family Advent Guide to continue to contemplate the amazing gift we have been offered in Christ Jesus.

# December 14 | Session 2

SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO | DANIEL 3



## STORY POINT:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to worship the gold statue, and God rescued them.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to anything but God. When we trust in Jesus and God brings us from death to life, we turn away from worshipping anything else. Jesus is Savior and Lord over our lives.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who was in the furnace with the three men?
- Why are we called to worship only God?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Use your Family Advent Guide to continue to contemplate the amazing gift we have been offered in Christ Jesus.

# December 21 | Christmas Bonus

## JESUS IS OUR RESCUER | LUKE 2



### STORY POINT:

Jesus is the promised Messiah who came from heaven to rescue us from sin.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

The angels told the shepherds the birth of Jesus was good news for all the people. Anyone who believes the good news that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for their sin will be saved.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What makes Jesus' birth such good news?
- The angel told the shepherds that Jesus' birth was 'good news of great joy for all people.' How does Jesus' birth bring joy to all people?
- Who is someone in your life that you can share the good news of Jesus with?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Use your Family Advent Guide to continue to contemplate the amazing gift we have been offered in Christ Jesus.

# January 4 | Session 3

## DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN | DANIEL 6



**STORY POINT:**  
Daniel trusted God, and God protected him.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Daniel continued to trust God, even though it meant he might be thrown into the lion's den. Jesus was faithful to follow God's plan, even though it meant He would die on the cross for sinners.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How did Daniel show that he trusted God?
- How can you trust God this week?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

#### FOR FUN :

Gather your family and participate in a trust fall. Stand behind your kids and carefully catch them as they fall backward. Talk about how Daniel trusted God completely, even in the face of danger. Explain that just like Daniel trusted God and was saved, we can trust in Jesus for our ultimate protection from sin and death.

#### TO SERVE :

Take a walk around your neighborhood, park, or even around your house if going outside isn't an option. As you walk, pray for the people on your list, asking God to make them aware of His presence and to protect them, just like He protected Daniel. You can pause at different spots during the walk to pray for specific people or needs or even hand out small prayer cards or encouraging notes to those you meet.

# IBC KidsStation

Winter (Dec 25 - Feb 26) Playlist





# UNIT 17:

## HOPE AT HOME

After 70 years, the exile was over, and God brought His people home to Judah. Through the prophet Zechariah, God spoke a message of hope to His people about what would happen in the future. The people began to rebuild the temple so that they would have a place to worship God. Years later in Persia, God used Esther to save His people through her bravery and sacrifice.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How did God plan to fix what sin broke?

Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 25:9

It will be said on that day,

“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him,  
that he might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”



## AT HOME RESOURCES

# January 11 | Session 1 & 2

GOD BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE HOME & REBUILDING THE TEMPLE | EZRA 1 – 6;  
HAGGAI 1-2



## STORY POINT:

The exile was over, and God brought His people back to Jerusalem where they rebuilt the temple to worship Him.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

Just as God promised, He brought His people back from exile to Jerusalem. One day, God will bring all His people together – all who trust in Jesus to save them from sin. There will be no crying that day. The people will worship Him in the new heaven and new earth.

--AND --

God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Jesus provides something better than the temple; He gives us Himself.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How did God use others to bring His people home?
- What other ways has God shown He keeps promises?
- Why was it important to rebuild the temple?
- How does Jesus offer us something better than the temple?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

### FOR FUN :

Purchase a search-and-find book or search for illustrations online. Track how long it takes for each family member to find the object or person. Award a prize for the family member who is the quickest to find it. Talk with kids about how God dwelt with the Israelites in the tabernacle and the temple. Remind kids that God, through His Spirit, now dwells directly with those who believe in Jesus.

### TO SERVE :

Take some time as a family to create “coupon books” of kind acts or favors you can do for one another. Exchange the coupon books at the beginning of the week and try to complete as many of the acts and favors as possible by the end of the week. Discuss how the act or favor costs something for the giver, but it is free for the recipient. Remind kids that Jesus paid the penalty for sin so that we could experience freedom.

# January 18 | Session 3

## THE PROPHET ZECHARIAH | ZECHARIAH



**STORY POINT:**  
Zechariah shared that God's kingdom will be established forever.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Zechariah prophesied about the Messiah, saying He would be a humble King who would build a new and better kingdom. Jesus is the Messiah King. Those who trust in Him are forgiven of their sin and welcomed into His kingdom.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How did God instruct His people to treat one another?
- How do we see Zechariah's prophecy fulfilled through Jesus?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

#### FOR FUN :

Use different-colored paper or scrapbooking supplies to make encouragement cards for friends and neighbors. Write messages or Bible verses to give hope to each recipient. Distribute the cards to share good news and give hope to those around you. Talk with kids about how Zechariah's message gave hope to God's people and how Jesus brings hope to all who believe in Him!

#### TO SERVE :

Work as a family to clean up an area of your city. Collect litter, rake leaves, or plant flowers to beautify the area. Afterward, talk about how God's people worked to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Remind kids of the promise God made to build a new city that brings all nations together and heals all of creation. Those who trust in Jesus can look forward to that day with hope!

# January 25 | Session 4

## ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE | ESTHER



**STORY POINT:**  
Esther obeyed God, risked her life, and saved her people.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Even though Haman tried to hurt God's people, God was in control and had a plan to save the Jews. Sin hurts us and breaks our relationship with God, but God had a plan from the very beginning to save us through Jesus' death on the cross.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What did Esther ask the Jewish people to do?
- How has God saved believers from sin and death?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

#### FOR FUN :

Take turns playing with a remote-controlled car or other toy. Set up an obstacle course for each family member to guide the car through. Afterward, discuss how the person holding the remote was in control. Remind kids that God is always in control. God is perfect and will work out His good plans no matter what happens.

#### TO SERVE :

Purim is a Jewish feast to celebrate the saving of the Jewish people from Haman's plan. Baskets of pastries, candy, and juice are often given to families and those in need as part of the celebration. Assemble a basket of food and drinks that you can give to someone else. When asked what the gift is for, take the opportunity to share the story of Esther and how it points us to the greater Rescuer—Jesus!



# UNIT 18:

## HOPE TO COME

Nehemiah led God's people to return home from exile and rebuild Jerusalem's walls. Ezra began teaching God's Word, and the people vowed to faithfully obey God. Malachi—the last Old Testament prophet—reminded the people of God's love for them. Malachi also warned God's people to repent of their disobedience and pointed them to the coming Messiah.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

**What is the Bible about?**

The Bible is the story of God's plan to save people through Jesus.

### KEY PASSAGE:

**John 20:31**

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



## AT HOME RESOURCES

# February 1 | Session 1

THE WALLS REBUILT | NEHEMIAH 1-6



## STORY POINT:

Even though their enemies tried to stop them, God's people rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

God's enemies tried to stop His people, but they still rebuilt the wall. God's enemies tried to stop Jesus by killing Him, but God planned for Jesus' death and resurrection to be the only way for people to be saved.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Why was Nehemiah sad, and what did he do?
- How was God glorified through the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

### FOR FUN :

Use uncooked spaghetti noodles and marshmallows to see which family member can build the tallest and longest wall. If someone has trouble or gets frustrated, have other family members step in to help. By the end, have all family members work together for a greater result. As you build, talk about how the Israelites worked together to rebuild the walls. Because God was with them and they worked together, the walls were finished in 52 days!

### TO SERVE :

Volunteer to organize items for a local food pantry. Work together as a family and alongside other volunteers. Remind kids of how God's people worked together and how their work protected the entire city from enemies. After organizing, pray for the food pantry and those who will receive food from it. Ask God to be with them and show them His love.

# February 8 | Session 2

EZRA TAUGHT GOD'S LAW | EZRA 7-10; NEHEMIAH 8



## STORY POINT:

Ezra returned to Jerusalem and faithfully taught God's law to His people.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

Ezra taught God's law, and the people recognized their sin. Jesus came to fulfill the law and gives us power to turn away from sin through His death and resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, our hearts are changed so we can love and obey God.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What did God's laws help the people understand?
- What is something you have learned from reading the Bible?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

### FOR FUN :

Throw a party to celebrate God's work in your family. Decorate, serve cake, and sing worship songs as a family. Take turns telling stories and naming specific things God has done for you this past year.

### TO SERVE :

Enter the key passage, John 20:31, into a translator app to hear how it sounds in a different language, such as Spanish or French. Practice saying the verse together in both English and the new language. Talk about how God's Word is shared all around the world in many languages. Pray for all people around the world to one day hear God's Word in their native language. Remind kids that God's Word is needed for people to hear and understand the good news of Jesus!



# February 15 | Session 3

## THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED GOD | NEHEMIAH 7-13



**STORY POINT:**  
God's people confessed their sin and promised to faithfully obey Him.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

God's people remembered all He had done, and they promised to be faithful. God is gracious and compassionate. All along, God has been faithful to people who are unfaithful. We experience God's grace and compassion in Jesus, who gave His life so we can receive mercy and life forever.

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What was the people's reaction after hearing God's law?
- How do we see God's faithfulness in this story?

### FAMILY ACTIVITY:

#### FOR FUN :

Look through some family photo albums to recount special occasions. Share stories and memories with one another. End the time by thanking God for the memories He has given your family and the reminders of His faithfulness.

#### TO SERVE :

Invite other families to join you in a family worship night. Sing worship songs together, ask parents or kids to share testimonies of God's faithfulness, and take time to thank God for His compassion and grace. Provide instant-film cameras for families to capture memories of the night for future celebrations.

# February 22 | Session 4

THE PROPHET MALACHI | MALACHI



## STORY POINT:

Malachi warned God's people to turn from their sin and remember the promised Messiah.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

Malachi told the people to turn away from the sin as they looked forward to the promised Messiah. Years later, God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus – the Messiah. Jesus brought a message of repentance and salvation.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who was the messenger Malachi spoke of?
- Why were unblemished (perfect) sacrifices important?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

### FOR FUN :

Malachi spoke of God's unchanging love and faithfulness. Create a journal or scrapbook for your family to record the ways you see God's love and faithfulness to you. Each day this week, have a family member write or draw one thing they've experienced where they saw God's faithfulness in their lives—whether in everyday blessings, answered prayers, or moments of peace.

### TO SERVE :

The book of Malachi talks a lot about offerings to God. Talk as a family about the act of worship through giving. Encourage kids to give an offering at church or to think of how they can make giving a more regular practice in their lives.

# March 1 | Session 5

THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTS TO JESUS | LUKE 1; JOHN 1



**STORY POINT:**  
John was sent by God as a witness to the coming Messiah.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

God spoke through His prophets in the Old Testament, like Isaiah and Malachi, and shared His plan to send Jesus into the world to save people from their sin. When the time had come, God called John to be a witness for Jesus. Anyone who trusted in Jesus will be saved.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How did Zechariah's doubt affect him? What happened when he obeyed God?
- How did John prepare the way for Jesus?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

### FOR FUN :

Use cardstock and craft sticks to make paper puppets for Zechariah, Elizabeth, the angel, and baby John. Practice retelling the Bible story using the paper puppets.

### TO SERVE :

Purchase or collect baby items to donate to Assist Pregnancy Center or a local ministry who supports foster and adoptive families. Pray for the children and families who will receive the donations. Ask God to help the children experience His love and to ultimately know Jesus as Savior.



**IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH**

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