

A WORD ABOUT “TELL THE NEXT GENERATION” SHEETS



The responsibility (as well as the privilege) of nurturing the faith of children rests most heavily on parents (see Deuteronomy 6:5-9). As parents, you will have the most opportunity for “teachable moments:” situations which arise in everyday life which can be opportunities to apply the truth of God. We believe faith nurturing is not merely a classroom experience, but rather a consistent weaving of spiritual truth with everyday life. In order for us to partner together in nurturing the faith of children, take home sheets are provided.

The *Tell the Next Generation* sheets contain the scripture used in the lesson taught to your child that day, the memory verse, the key themes, and ideas for your follow-up:

Scripture and Key Themes: It is very difficult to pass on Biblical truth with heart and passion if it is not first in our own hearts. Therefore, scripture and key themes are provided so that you can dwell on the lesson and ask God to make the truth live in you.

Memory Verse: Memorizing scripture is of vital importance in spiritual growth. When the Word is memorized, it is with us as an ever-present counselor and an effective weapon against the attacks of the enemy. It could be a great encouragement to your child if you memorize the scripture with your child each week.

Ideas for Parent Follow-up: Each week we are encouraging parents to help your child with the memory verse and to review previous verses. We would also like to encourage you to appropriately share from your hearts what God has taught you from dwelling on the scripture and themes.

Prayer: Without the work of the Holy Spirit in your child's heart, these lessons will merely add information to your child's store of Biblical knowledge. While it is crucial to increase Biblical knowledge as “faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17 NASB), faith grows by the incentive of God in a person's heart (John 6:44). Therefore, join us in prayer for your child to grow in faith.

Encouragement: We would suggest that you encourage your child to complete the children's take home sheet (*Growing in Faith*). Spiritual growth requires work. It is critically important to teach children diligence and good habits when they are young in order to encourage a lifetime of spiritual growth.

A WORD ABOUT “GROWING IN FAITH” SHEETS



Our *Growing in Faith* sheets have been written in order to encourage your child to make a response to the Word of God. When a child acts on the truth he has learned, faith is born in the heart. Each sheet has a checklist of exercises to help children grow in spiritual understanding and in faith. Although a child can “go through the motions” of “completing these tasks” and have little growth in faith, it is also possible that these exercises can encourage a child toward a heart response of faith.

Please encourage your child to complete as much of the sheet as possible during the week and to bring the sheets back to the next class session. Children should check the boxes of the activities completed. This will give your child a sense of accountability as well as communicating the importance of the truth of the lesson to your child. In class, the completed sheet can be used as a springboard for discussion.

The *Growing in Faith* sheets contain the following components:

Memorize: Children are encouraged to memorize a verse a week. Your child may be capable of more memorization and therefore more verses are provided. Teachers may check the verse the class is memorizing, or teachers may leave the choice to the parents. If children start memorizing verses while they are young, they will have hundreds of verses learned by the end of adolescence. Our hope is to cultivate a lifetime habit of Bible memorization.

Review: The goal of memorization is not to learn a verse and then forget it, but to retain the verse for a lifetime. Therefore, review is critical. Please look for opportunities for your child to review and use her memory verses at home.

Pray: One goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to encourage children in their prayer lives. Each week we provide a prayer suggestion.

Tell: Accountability and conversation about spiritual matters benefits all believers. Another goal of the *Growing in Faith* sheets is to start this at a young age so children do not feel embarrassed to talk about deep faith issues when they are older.

Children may choose either the Write or the Share option.

Write: In an effort to encourage spiritual journalizing, the “Write” selection has been included on the *Growing in Faith* sheets. This can most easily be done if the child has a separate spiral notebook to be used expressly for this purpose.

Share: The “Share” option is provided to help children share their faith (or in the case of unbelieving children, to share their knowledge with the hope that faith will grow from hearing the Word of God). By sharing with an unbeliever, children will be obeying the Great Commission. Children have less fear than many adults in sharing with unbelievers and by nurturing that God-given gift, our hope is they will grow up to be adults who witness to unbelievers.

By sharing with believers, children will be obeying the command to:

“let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

Perhaps then they will grow up to be adults who can say:

“I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly” (Psalm 40:10).

We look forward to partnering with you this year, to the end that *“the next generation may put their trust in God.”* If you have any questions or suggestions, or if we may be of help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. Any of us would be glad to talk with you.

Teacher _____

Helper(s) _____

A Note To Parents



Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:5-9

This year your child will be studying God's use of His names as a means to reveal His character. To maximize the benefit of this study for your child, we will be sending a parent page home each week which will include the name studied, the scripture used and key themes we emphasized. We would encourage you to look at these scripture portions and ask God to reveal to you the greatness of His character.

The names of God are a revelation of His character. Your child can memorize these names and become more "knowledgeable;" or more importantly, God could so move the heart of your child that these names *live* in the heart of your child. To that end, the suggestions in numbers three and four of the take home sheets, ***TELL THE NEXT GENERATION***, are especially important.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says that the words of scripture must first be upon our hearts before we can impart God's truth authentically to our children. If we so love the Word of God and our hearts are in tune with His purposes, our instruction will be the natural overflow of a heart committed to God.

How easy it is to share our faith with our children if we really believe that God is a God whose character is portrayed in His awesome array of names. El Roi, The God Who Sees, knows every heartache we have ever experienced; He sees our frustrations and our joys; He sees our victories and our defeats – and looks upon us with eyes of compassion. Jehovah-Jireh is our Provider and will give us the patience to deal with a difficult boss, the wisdom we need to parent our children well, and the resolve to live as a person of integrity. Jehovah-Shalom can give us peace in the midst of unemployment and the assurance that He is in control in the face of unexplained illness.

We need to strive for these truths to live in our own hearts, so we can nurture the faith of our children. If we can truly say in our hearts, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens" (Psalm 8:1), it will be easy in our everyday conversation to share our God with our children.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AS YOU LEAD THESE YOUNG ONES



HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME includes the following names.
(It is possible that some names will not be covered in class.)

ELOHIM: *Strong Creator*

JEHOVAH-SABAOTH: *The Lord of Hosts*

EL SHADDAI: *God Almighty*

JEHOVAH-SHALOM: *The Lord Our Peace*

JEHOVAH-JIREH: *The Lord Will Provide*

JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH: *The Lord is There*

JEHOVAH-ROPHE: *The Lord Our Healer*

JEHOVAH-MAGINNENU:
The Lord Our Defense

JEHOVAH-NISSI: *The Lord My Banner*
(The Lord My Victory)

EL ELYON: *The Most High*

JEHOVAH-ROHI: *The Lord My Shepherd*

OTHER NAMES OF GOD: *Fortress, Refuge, Hiding Place, Rock, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Mighty God (El Gibbor), King of the Nations, King of the Ages, King Eternal, King of Heaven, Helper, God of Our Fathers, The Faithful God*

JEHOVAH- EL EMETH: *The Lord God of Truth*

JEHOVAH-OR: *The Lord is Light*

KING OF KINGS

WORD

FATHER, ABBA FATHER

HIGH PRIEST, MEDIATOR, INTERCESSOR

LAMB OF GOD, SAVIOR, MESSIAH

ADVOCATE

CORNERSTONE

OVERCOMER

COMING KING

JUDGE OF THE WHOLE EARTH

ALPHA AND OMEGA

THE UNKNOWN NAME

EL KANA: *A Jealous God*

COUNSELOR

JEHOVAH, YAHWEH, I AM:
Self-existent One, Unchanging One

ADONAI: *Lord, Master*

EL ROI: *The God Who Sees*