

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 3, 2019



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Romans 1-16*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Romans 10:13*

#### BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Work together to tell all people about Jesus.*

#### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Everyone sins. Jesus paid the price for our sin. (YK)*

*Jesus atoned for our sins, so we can, through repentance and faith, be reconciled to God. (OK)*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 1:9-20*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 1:17*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 1:16-20*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 1:21-28*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 1:29-34*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 1:35-38*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 1:39-45*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 2:1-12*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 2:13-17*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Romans and Mark together as a family:



- **The letter to Rome.** Paul had desired for quite some time to visit the Christians in Rome. Because he had been prevented from visiting Rome, Paul wrote a letter to encourage the Romans and share with them some basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Paul taught the Romans about essential faith, about the nature of God, and about the role of each member of a local church.
- **Essential faith.** One topic Paul spent a great deal of time communicating was the nature of true faith. A simple explanation of faith for kids is, "a belief that what God has said is true." While this is an accurate depiction of what faith is, Paul helped the Roman believers understand that faith in Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He offered on the cross is the basis for our salvation and is essential for Christian living.
- **Righteousness through grace.** Paul wrote that our essential faith gives us a renewed relationship with God solely because of God's grace. We can do nothing to earn God's grace; it is freely given. God, in His mercy, sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place. When we have faith in Jesus Christ and His death, God grants us righteousness, or sees us as right in His sight, because of the penalty Jesus has already paid. Because Jesus paid the price for our sin, we can be reconciled to God.
- **Jesus our example.** The Gospel of Mark was written to give clear evidence that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah. As the shortest of all the gospel books, Mark quickly highlights God's plan for Jesus. Mark, unlike the other gospels, gives very little background to Jesus' story and jumps right into Jesus' baptism, temptation, early ministry, and calling of disciples to follow Him. These quick snapshots of Jesus' identity as the Son of God and of His life, sacrificial death, and resurrection led Paul to teach the Romans, and all of us, about essential faith and why faith is so important.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10, 2019



### BIBLE STORY:

*Romans 1–16*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Romans 5:8*

### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Paul taught people about God.*

### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*God showed us His love when He sent Jesus. (YK)*

*Even though we sin against Him, God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to die for us. (OK)*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 2:1-12*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 2:5*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 2:18-22*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 2:23-28*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 3:1-6*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 3:7-12*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 3:13-19*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 3:20-30*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 3:31-35*

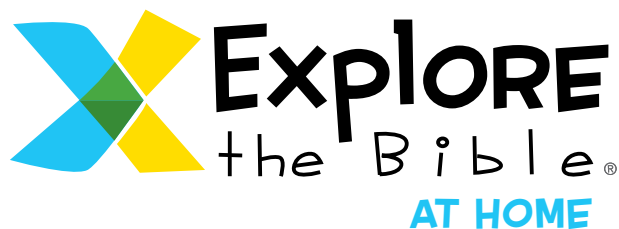
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Romans and Mark together as a family:



- **Paul taught about God.** Paul wanted the believers in Rome to fully understand who God is. While our finite minds cannot truly comprehend the scope of who God is, there are numerous characteristics and qualities Paul taught about God that Christians should understand to help guide their living. The first few chapters of Romans focus on the magnitude of who God is and how God has made Himself known to all people. Paul taught that all people are without excuse because God has made Himself known through His creation. People can clearly see, based on God's creation, that He does exist.
- **The wages of sin is death.** Because He is just, God requires punishment for sin. Paul shared with the Romans that the punishment all deserve for sin is death. This death Paul speaks of is a spiritual death, or an eternal separation from God. The good news is that God, in grace, sent Jesus as a propitiation—atonement sacrifice—for our punishment. Even in our sinful state, God still loved us and sent Jesus to die for us. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can be justified through faith in Him.
- **Led by the Spirit.** Paul told the church in Rome that while Jesus no longer resided on the earth, God sent the Holy Spirit to guide people to know and understand God and His desires. The Holy Spirit guides believers to know what sin is and to know when they sin. The Holy Spirit also helps people boldly share the message of Jesus with others.
- **Healed by the Savior.** Mark 2 shares a wonderful story of four men who took a friend to Jesus to be healed. The friend was taken on a stretcher and lowered through the roof of a home. Jesus forgave the man's sins. The crowd was astounded and angered. Jesus' ability to heal the man showed His authority as the Son of God, and proved his equality with God. Jesus' life was an example to everyone of the nature of God that Paul talked about when he wrote his letter to the Romans.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2019



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Romans 1–16*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Romans 14:19*

#### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Love and help one another. (BT)*

*Church people are to work together. (P)*

#### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We should love each other and live in peace. (YK)*

*When the church is united in love and peace, we bring glory to God. (OK)*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 3:23-35*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 3:35*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 4:1-12*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 4:13-20*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 4:21-25*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 4:26-29*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 4:30-34*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 4:35-41*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 5:1-13*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Romans and Mark together as a family:



- **The church is not a building.** Paul helped believers in Rome understand that the church was a body of believers and not a physical location. This concept was easier for early Christians to understand since they typically met in local homes and did not have an organized place of worship. Gentile believers, particularly, would have quickly identified the church as a group of like-minded individuals focusing their worship and attention on God.
- **The work of the church.** Identifying the church as a gathered body of believers, Paul compared the church to a human body. Each part of a human body has a function and a role to accomplish; the same is true of the church body. Paul listed gifts that God had given to help the church function. These gifts included faith, service, teaching, giving, leading, and extending mercy to others. These gifts were given to believers to further the work of the church and to fulfill God's plan of spreading the gospel message.
- **Be on your guard.** Paul continued by telling the church that individuals should also serve God truthfully and serve others with a glad heart, being aware of those who seek to do harm. Paul encouraged Christians to seek peace whenever possible and to avoid those who want to cause trouble and those who refuse to follow Jesus. Paul's advice to Christians was to avoid what is evil and do what is good.
- **One body in Christ.** Jesus identified His disciples and family as an example of a united body of believers. Mark 3 records a time when Jesus was confronted by the religious leaders—and His own earthly family—claiming Jesus was casting out demons by the power of Satan. Jesus helped the religious leaders see that Jesus was not casting out demons by the power of Satan, but by the power of God. Jesus then clearly identified true believers as those who did the will of God. As Jesus' disciples surrounded Him, this group of people, working together to do the will of God, is a clear example of the body of believers Paul taught about in Romans.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 24, 2019



**BIBLE STORY:**

*Proverbs 1–31*

**BIBLE VERSE:**

*Proverbs 2:6*

**BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:**

*The Bible helps us know how to live.*

**KIDS TEXT TRUTH:**

*Wisdom is from God. (YK)*

*Wisdom is a gift from God that we should seek. (OK)*

**ADULT CORE PASSAGE:**

*Mark 5:21-24,35-43*

**FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:**

*Mark 5:36b*

**FAMILY READING PLAN:**

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 5:14-20*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 5:21-29*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 5:30-43*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 6:1-6*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 6:7-13*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 6:14-20*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 6:21-29*

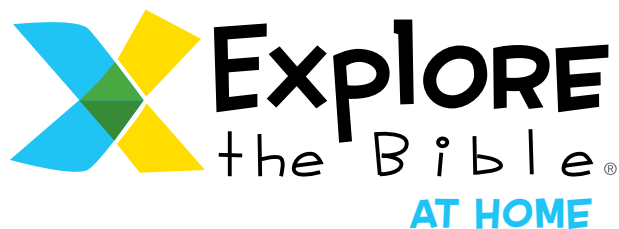
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Proverbs* and *Mark* together as a family:



- **Words to live by.** The Book of Proverbs is a collection of short sayings that teach general truths of how a person desiring to honor God should live. Christians should desire righteous living. By reading the Book of Proverbs, a person will understand what a righteous life should look like.
- **It begins with God.** Proverbs 1 opens with a declarative statement about the purpose of the book. Proverbs 1:7 says that the fear of God is where knowledge and wisdom begin. The previous six verses describe the purpose of the proverbs and set a sort of outline of the entire book. God is the author of wisdom and all wisdom comes from God. Solomon, the writer of most of these proverbs, had been given great wisdom from God and wrote to encourage others to rely on God to increase their wisdom and knowledge.
- **How can we live in ways that please God?** Of the many proverbs Solomon wrote, there are consistent themes that highlight certain character traits. If a Christian's life has these traits, that life will honor God. Solomon focused on emotions such as anger, hatred, and worry as being emotions that should be replaced with patience, love, and dependence on God. Solomon cautioned his readers to focus their lives on truthfulness, joy, and love in order to escape emotions that would lead to destruction.
- **Proverbs at work.** Jesus Christ serves as an example of righteous living. Since Jesus is the only person to walk the earth without sin, we can take examples from His life to see what a life lived in accordance with the proverbs looks like. Mark 5 gives us a story of a healing Jesus performed for a synagogue leader. It was well-known that many of the religious leaders were in opposition to what Jesus taught. When Jesus was approached by Jairus, a religious leader, asking for Jesus to heal his daughter, Jesus went with Jairus. Jesus raised the child from death to life. Through this act Jesus showed His power over all things, even death. Jesus, sharing in the wisdom of God, healed out of love for the girl and her father. Because of Jesus' example, and through His death, we can follow His example and live in ways that honor God.

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31, 2019



### BIBLE STORY:

*Song of Songs (BT; P)*  
*Song of Songs; Genesis 2:20-24; Exodus 20:14;*  
*John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:7-19*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*1 John 4:19*

### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Solomon wrote a song about love.*

### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Love is a gift from God. (YK)*  
*Marital love reminds us of the pure,*  
*unconditional love of God for His people. (OK)*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 6:7-13,30-32*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 6:12*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 6:30-44*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 6:45-52*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 6:53-56*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 7:1-7*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 7:8-13*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 7:14-23*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 7:24-30*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study *Song of Songs* and *Mark* together as a family:



- **God's gift of marriage.** The Book of Song of Songs is a very unique book in Scripture. This book, written by Solomon, is part of the Poetry & Wisdom genre of the Bible. This book highlights the committed love between a husband and wife as the example of God's perfect design for marriage. God's gift of marriage should be held faithfully, because husband and wife are committed to one another for all of their earthly lives.
- **Echoes of love.** This love poem echoes the love of God for His children. The love expressed in this book cannot be fully realized apart from a relationship with Jesus Christ. A husband and wife, committed faithfully to honoring Christ in their marriage, can fully realize God's plan for marriage.
- **God's love on display.** Genesis 2 identifies that in the Garden of Eden, God created a man and a woman who would become the first married couple. God later commissioned and commanded the nation of Israel to remain faithful to their marriage promises. Paul reminded the church at Ephesus that husbands should love their wives and that wives should love their husbands. This mutual love echoed again the love that God has for people. God's love for people can clearly be seen through His choice to send His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for people. Jesus gave the perfect example of love when He died on the cross in place of those He loved.
- **Jesus' disciples show His love.** In Mark 6, Jesus commissioned 12 men to be His followers and asked them to point others to Him. Jesus sent the men out to minister to the sick, the diseased, and to share the good news with those who needed to hear of Jesus. These men took Jesus' charge seriously and, as they walked daily with Jesus, they learned how to show the pure love of God to those to whom they ministered. Jesus' love—the love of the Father as reflected in Solomon's writings—gives an example of how we can love like Him wherever we go.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 7, 2019



### BIBLE STORY:

*Luke 7:36-50*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*1 John 1:9*

### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus loved all people. (BT)*

*Jesus showed how much He loved people. (P)*

### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We can be grateful that God forgives us. (YK)*

*We should be grateful for God's gift of forgiveness from our sin. (OK)*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 7:25-37*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 7:37*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 7:31-37*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 8:1-10*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 8:11-21*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 8:22-26*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 8:27-30*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 8:31-33*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 8:34-38*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Mark together as a family:



- **Jewish life.** Jews living during Jesus' day were known for their hospitality and structured lives. Jews had a set of rules that governed their lives. The people were always cautious to extend hospitality to their visitors. On one occasion, Jesus was invited into a man named Simon's home. When Jesus arrived, Simon forgot all of the hospitable things a host should do and sat down to dinner.
- **An expensive gift.** During dinner, Jesus reclined at the table as was customary. A woman, overcome by emotion, began to cry and washed Jesus' feet with her tears. Using her hair, she wiped Jesus' feet, then broke open a jar of expensive oil and used it to anoint Jesus. Simon was not at all excited about the woman and her actions. Simon questioned the motives of the woman and thought that if Jesus knew the kind of woman that had poured the oil on Him, Jesus would not have been pleased either.
- **A story for Simon.** Jesus told Simon a story about two debtors. One debtor owed a small amount of money while the other owed so much, it would have likely taken a lifetime to repay. Graciously, the lender forgave both debts, asking for nothing in return. Through this story, Jesus showed Simon that the one who had been forgiven much was much more grateful. The same would be true for those forgiven of sin. Those who had been forgiven of sin were grateful for what Jesus had done. The woman showed her gratitude by anointing Jesus.
- **Jesus' compassion was for everyone.** The gospels tell many stories of Jesus' great compassion. Mark 7 shares another story where Jesus was approached by another woman asking for healing for her daughter. This woman was not a Jew, but a Gentile. The Gentile woman answered Jesus' questions in a way that showed even she, a Gentile, was loved by God and deserved God's mercy. Because of her faith, Jesus healed the woman's daughter. In both stories, Jesus showed compassion and grace by forgiving sin and by healing a woman's daughter.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2019



#### BIBLE STORY:

Luke 19:28-38 (BT; P)

Luke 19:28-40 (YK; OK)

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Luke 19:38a*

#### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*People showed their love for Jesus.*

#### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus is worthy of praise. (YK)*

*Jesus is worthy of honor and praise. (OK)*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 9:14-27*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 8:29*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 9:1-13*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 9:14-29*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 9:30-32*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 9:33-37*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 9:38-41*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 9:42-50*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 10:1-12*

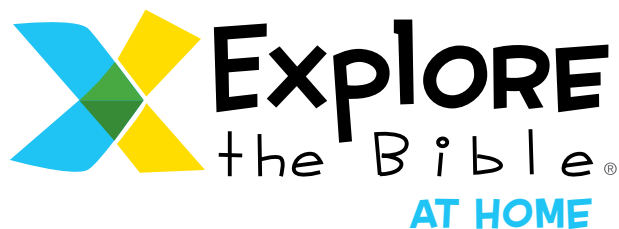
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Mark together as a family:



- **A welcome like no other.** Jesus knew it was time for Him to go to Jerusalem where He would willingly offer Himself as the payment for sin. As Jesus and His disciples approached Bethany and Bethphage, Jesus instructed His disciples to enter the city and find a donkey to bring to Him. The disciples did as Jesus asked and delivered the donkey. Jesus sat on the animal and rode into Jerusalem to a crowd praising Him as King of kings. The crowd laid palm branches and cloaks in the road to welcome Jesus. The reception Jesus received had been foretold many years before by the prophet Zechariah.
- **Scorned by the religious leaders.** Upon His arrival in Jerusalem, Jesus was approached by the religious leaders who were indignant about the treatment He was receiving. Jesus was not well-liked by the religious leaders and they had been looking for such an occasion to, perhaps, arrest Him. Jesus calmly told the religious leaders that if the crowds did not praise Him, then God would raise up the rocks to praise Him. This truth angered the religious leaders even more.
- **Even against opposition Jesus remained loving and compassionate.** Mark 9 tells a story of Jesus' previous interactions with those considered outcasts by society. This story also displays Jesus' compassion and love for all people. Jesus met a man whose son was afflicted by an evil spirit. The spirit caused convulsions and made the boy unable to speak. Jesus' disciples had been unable to cast out the spirit, but Jesus did so because of the father's faith. Later, even on the event of His entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was misunderstood by the religious leaders who had ridiculed and accused Him of things the religious leaders thought deserved death. Jesus stayed true to God's plan for Him and remained in Jerusalem, knowing how He would be treated later that week.

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 21, 2019



### BIBLE STORY FOR PRESCHOOLERS:

Luke 22:1-24:12

### BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 24:6a

### BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus is alive.*

### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus paid for my sin. He is alive! (YK)*

*Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sin. Jesus is alive! (OK)*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

Mark 15:27-39

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

Mark 15:39

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** Mark 10:13-16

**MONDAY:** Mark 10:17-22

**TUESDAY:** Mark 10:23-31

**WEDNESDAY:** Mark 10:32-34

**THURSDAY:** Mark 10:35-45

**FRIDAY:** Mark 10:46-52

**SATURDAY:** Mark 11:1-11

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

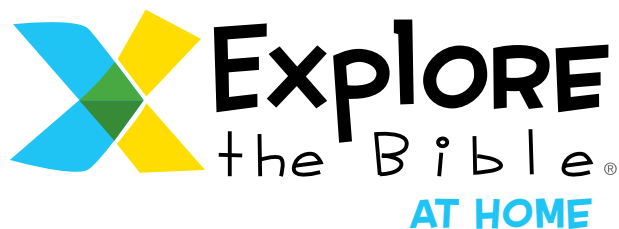
Share these points as you study Luke and Mark together as a family:



- **God's plan.** Even before creation God knew that people would need a Savior. God's plan was revealed in the garden of Eden to Adam in Genesis 3. That early revelation would be fulfilled through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He knew He had gone there to die. When He was mocked by the religious leaders on the day of the triumphal entry, Jesus knew the time had come to fulfill the plan God had for sending Him to earth.
- **The turning tide.** The religious leaders were still upset over the reception that Jesus received and had been working on a plan to have Jesus arrested. Judas, one of the Twelve, decided he would help the religious leaders arrest Jesus. Judas made his plans and agreed at some point during the week to betray Jesus.
- **Death on a cross.** After Judas had betrayed Jesus, the religious leaders led Jesus to the house of the high priest who turned Him over to the Roman governor, Pilate. Pilate, unsure of what to do, made an attempt to release Jesus. The religious leaders had worked the crowd into such a frenzy, however, that Pilate released a known criminal and allowed Jesus to be crucified. Jesus died on the cross, was buried in a borrowed tomb, and gloriously arose again the third day. The empty tomb signifies God's pleasure with the sacrifice that was made. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the penalty for sin has been paid if a person repents and receives God's gift of forgiveness of sin.
- **God's story.** This magnificent story of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross can be found in each of the four Gospels. Each account is similar and some give other information that is not included in the text of Luke's Gospel. As a family, review each of the accounts from other Gospel books and compare the details. Find Matthew's account in Matthew 26:1-28:10; Mark's account in Mark 14:1-16:8; and John's account in John 18:1-20:10.



FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 28, 2019



### BIBLE STORY PRESCHOOLERS:

*Luke 24:13-53*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Luke 24:27*

### BABIES—PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*Jesus helped people know who He was.*

### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*The Bible tells us that Jesus came to rescue us from our sin. (YK)*

*The Bible reveals God's plan to send Jesus to rescue us from our sin. (OK)*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 10:35-45*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 10:43-44*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 11:12-19*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 11:20-26*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 11:27-33*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 12:1-12*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 12:13-17*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 12:18-27*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 12:28-34*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Luke and Mark together as a family:



- **An empty tomb.** In the morning of the first day of the week, women went to finish preparing Jesus' body. To their surprise, they discovered the tomb was open and empty. Returning to Jesus' disciples, the women shared their news. Those who heard the news rejoiced, but they did not fully understand the meaning of the events that had just taken place. Later that day, the crowd left and went back to their homes.
- **A long walk.** Emmaus was a little town about seven miles from Jerusalem. After leaving the room with the other disciples, two of Jesus' followers began their walk back to Emmaus. While traveling, they were discussing all that had happened, likely curious about the events and the empty tomb. The disciples were joined by a stranger who asked what they were discussing. The disciples questioned why the man did not know what had happened. Suddenly the visitor began teaching from the Scriptures all that had been taught about the Messiah. At the end of the walk, while dining together, the disciples' eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Jesus. In a hurry, they returned to Jerusalem to tell what they had seen and now understood.
- **Unfolding the story.** The disciples had been told on many occasions that Jesus was the Messiah. They had also been told several times that Jesus was going to die and rise again on the third day. The problem was, the disciples misunderstood Jesus' statements or simply didn't believe what He said. Before His death, Jesus had an inner circle of three men whom He strengthened for future ministry. The brothers James and John were two of these men. Showing how even Jesus' closest disciples needed further instruction, Mark 10 shares a time when James and John requested of Jesus positions of prominence for themselves in Jesus' kingdom. Even being closely counseled by Jesus, James and John still misunderstood Jesus' true ministry. These men and many others could now fully understand Jesus' ministry from His revelation to the Emmaus disciples.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5, 2019



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Ephesians 1–6*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Ephesians 2:10*

#### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*People at church love Jesus. (BT)*

*People who love Jesus are in His church. (P)*

#### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*Our choices should show others that we love God. (YK)*

*Our lives should reflect that God has called us to follow Him. (OK)*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 11:15-19; 12:41-44*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 12:44*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 12:35-37*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 12:38-44*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 13:1-8*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 13:9-13*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 13:14-23*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 13:24-27*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 13:28-31*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Ephesians and Mark together as a family:



- **Ephesus the great.** The city of Ephesus was one of the leading major cities during the time Paul was making his missionary journeys. The city served as the capital city of the Roman province called Asia. The city had a large market, an amphitheater that could seat almost 50,000 people, an extensive library, and a population estimated around 250,000. Ephesus, however, was largely focused on the worship of Greek goddesses and not on the one true God. Paul wrote a letter to the churches in Ephesus to encourage them to stay true to God.
- **Paul's message.** When absent, Paul continually wanted to send encouragement to churches. Thirteen letters in the New Testament are just that—notes of encouragement—written at specific times and about specific circumstances unique to each person or church. The letter to the Ephesians shares Paul's heart for ministry. He desired the church to remember the hope that comes through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul reminded the believers that all people sin, but forgiveness of sin was available through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- **Christian qualities.** Paul gave the church a list of qualities that believers should live by in order to honor God and display for others what followers of Jesus look like. Paul said believers should be people of truth, able to control their anger, encouragers, kind, full of compassion, and willing to forgive because they, too, have been forgiven. Paul encouraged the church to live out these qualities, even when faced with the pagan Ephesians.
- **True worship.** Paul encouraged the believers to worship God in truth. Jesus, of course, serves as an example for all believers as to what true worship looks like. Mark 11 shares a time when Jesus helped people in the temple know the proper way to worship in the temple. Men were selling items in the temple and Jesus quickly helped them see that true worship had nothing to do with selling goods, but had everything to do with pure worship of God, exhibiting the Christian qualities Paul would later teach the church at Ephesus.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 12, 2019



#### BIBLE STORY:

*Numbers 9:15-23; 11:1-9,31-35*

#### BIBLE VERSE:

*Psalms 33:20*

#### BABIES-PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God told His people what to do.*

#### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We should thank God for caring for us. (YK)  
Our hearts should respond to God's provision  
with thankfulness. (OK)*

#### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 13:24-37*

#### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 13:33*

#### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 13:32-37*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 14:1-11*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 14:12-16*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 14:17-21*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 14:22-26*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 14:27-31*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 14:32-42*

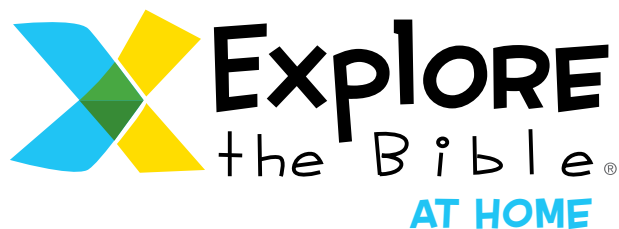
## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Numbers and Mark together as a family:



- **Free from bondage.** Israel had spent more than 400 years enslaved by the Egyptians. God sent Moses to bring the people out of bondage and God led the people through the Red Sea. God led the people to the base of Mount Sinai and gave them further instructions. Following God's instructions, the people built a tabernacle, or movable tent, where God's presence would dwell. God led them by a cloud, and when the cloud stopped moving, the people set up camp. When the cloud was lifted, the people broke camp and followed the cloud until it once again stopped.
- **The daily grind.** After following the cloud for several days, the Israelites began to complain. Their complaints were not tempered either; they were harsh. Israel blamed Moses for bringing them out to the desert to die. Even worse, the Israelites blamed God for bringing them out of Egypt where, at the very least, they had food to eat. The people were no longer grateful they were free from the rule of the Egyptians. Because of His love for them, God had been providing for Israel all along the way. However, the people wanted more!
- **God provided.** Thankfully for Israel, and for us, God is a gracious God, giving us things we do not deserve. Even though Israel complained, God still provided for them through a daily provision of manna, a food substance that met their daily dietary needs. The people wanted meat and asked God to send them some. God sent quail into the camp and the people ate the meat. Since the peoples' hearts were not God-focused, but self-focused, the meat made the people sick. Moses asked God to forgive the people and God did.
- **God continues to provide.** God provided for the Israelites in the desert and He continued to provide for Israel through the Messiah. God provided for all people by sending Jesus, the ultimate rescue for sin. And one day, as Mark 13 tells, Jesus will return!

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 19, 2019



### BIBLE STORY:

*Numbers 13:1–14:10*

### BIBLE VERSE:

*Proverbs 3:5*

### BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:

*God is good. (BT)*

*Trust God and love Him. (P)*

### KIDS TEXT TRUTH:

*We should trust and obey God. (YK)*

*We should trust God's plan and obey His instructions. (OK)*

### ADULT CORE PASSAGE:

*Mark 14:3-11,32-36*

### FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:

*Mark 14:36*

### FAMILY READING PLAN:

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 14:43-52*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 14:53-65*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 14:66-72*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 15:1-5*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 15:6-15*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 15:16-20*

**SATURDAY:** *Mark 15:21-28*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Numbers and Mark together as a family:



- **In the land.** The Israelites continued to follow the cloud God had set before them. One day the cloud came to rest on the edge of the land God had promised to give the people. God instructed Moses to choose 12 men, one man from each tribe of Israel, to go into the land and see what the land, the crops, and the cities looked like. The men went into the land for 40 days then returned with their report.
- **We can't do it!** The men returned to the place where Israel had gathered. Ten of the men were certain that the inhabitants of the land, who were described as giants, would surely defeat Israel. These ten men convinced the nation to refuse to go into the land because the cities were well-fortified and the people were great in size.
- **Trust God.** Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, returned with a different view of the land. The land, these men said, was good and full of bountiful produce. Joshua and Caleb also encouraged the people to remember that God said they would be able to take the land since God is the one who was giving it to them.
- **Decisions, decisions, decisions.** Israel decided they would listen to the counsel of the ten men who were convinced that they would never be able to take the land. God, once again, was upset with Israel, but in His grace, God continued to provide for the people by leading them with a cloud for the next 40 years—1 year for each day the spies had been in the land.
- **Committed to God.** God has always wanted His followers to be committed to Him. Israel did not follow God in total commitment and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus' life, however, is an example of true commitment to God. Jesus submitted to God's plan completely! Mark 14 records that Jesus was in the home of a man named Simon when a woman came and anointed Him with oil. Jesus said this anointing was an important act as preparation for His upcoming death and burial—proof of Jesus' total obedience to God.

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 26, 2019



**BIBLE STORY:**

*Numbers 22–24*

**BIBLE VERSE:**

*Isaiah 41:10*

**BABIES–PRESCHOOL TEXT TRUTH:**

*God wants people to obey Him.*

**KIDS TEXT TRUTH:**

*God is always in control. (YK)*

*God is sovereign over all. (OK)*

**ADULT CORE PASSAGE:**

*Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-8*

**FAMILY MEMORY VERSE:**

*Mark 16:6*

**FAMILY READING PLAN:**

**SUNDAY:** *Mark 15:29-32*

**MONDAY:** *Mark 15:33-41*

**TUESDAY:** *Mark 15:42-47*

**WEDNESDAY:** *Mark 16:1-8*

**THURSDAY:** *Mark 16:9-13*

**FRIDAY:** *Mark 16:14-20*

**SATURDAY:** *1 Timothy 1:1-2*

## FAMILY BIBLE EXPLORATION

Share these points as you study Numbers and Mark together as a family:



- **For forty years.** God had been leading Israel through the wilderness for 40 years. The Bible tells us that during that time, the clothes the people were wearing and the sandals on their feet never wore out. God provided for everything the people needed. As their wanderings were coming to a close, God led the nation to Moab. The king of Moab, a man named Balak, had seen the great size of Israel and was worried.
- **Balak had a plan.** Balak was seriously concerned that Israel might attack him, so Balak sent for a man named Balaam to come and curse Israel for him. Balaam was a known magician and had a reputation for bringing curses on people. One night, Balaam had a dream which instructed him not to go to Balak and certainly not to curse Israel, God's chosen people. Balak, however, refused to give up.
- **An interesting journey.** Eventually Balaam saddled up his donkey and set out for Moab. Along the way, the donkey stumbled, and Balaam hit it. The third time Balaam struck the donkey, God allowed the donkey to speak. The donkey asked Balaam why Balaam had struck it. God revealed to Balaam that he could only say what God told him to say.
- **A dejected king.** On four separate occasions, Balaam blessed Israel, instead of cursing them. Balak was not amused. Ultimately, Balaam provided a prophetic message announcing that Israel's greatness would continue and one day, a star would come from Israel. Balaam, though he did not know it, was speaking about Jesus.
- **The glorious king.** Balaam was used by God to foretell the sacrifice that Jesus would make on the cross for the sin of all. Mark 15–16 shares the story of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection that secured salvation for those who have faith in Christ. This fulfilled Balaam's prophecy of a King in Israel who would rule forever.