**Winter 2022–2023 Parent Emails**

**Session 1:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Today, boys and girls began a nine-week journey through the book of Matthew. Matthew is a part of the genre of gospels. The book is named after its writer, a tax collector turned disciple of Jesus—Matthew. Matthew’s primary audience was his fellow Jews, thus starting his account of the life of Jesus with the genealogy of Jesus made perfect sense. The Jewish people tracked their genealogies. So, Matthew began by outlining how Jesus was a descendant of Abraham and David. This was Matthew’s way of telling the people that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah (Christ). This week, make a list of your family members—blood or heart. Celebrate each member of your family and the gift they are to your family. Check out the discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 1:1-17

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Bible Verse: John 17:3

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus is the promised Messiah (Christ).

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus is the Messiah (Christ), promised by God from the family of Abraham and David.

THE FAMILY OF JESUS

Matthew 1:1-17

*One of Jesus’ 12 disciples, Matthew, wanted all of the Jewish people to understand that Jesus was the Messiah that had been promised by God. To start his Gospel, Matthew began by explaining who Jesus’ family was. The Jewish people kept long lists of families called genealogies. It was important to them to know a person’s family and history.*

*So Matthew began, “The family of Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.” Usually a family list would be named after the earliest, most important member of the family. Matthew named his family list after Jesus because Matthew understood that Jesus was the most important person—ever.*

*Then Matthew began to list the people in Jesus’ family. “Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac had a son named Jacob.” A few lines later he said, “Salmon and his wife Rahab had a son named Boaz. Boaz and his wife Ruth had a son named Obed. Obed had a son named Jesse. And Jesse had a son named David, who became king of Israel.”*

*One of the many promises God made about the Messiah was that He would be from King David’s family. Using Jesus’ family list, Matthew told the people that God kept this promise.*

*Next, Matthew told about the members of Jesus’ family from King David until the Israelites were defeated because of their sin and taken away to Babylon. Finally, Matthew listed the family members after the Israelites returned from Babylon. He finished with “Jacob had a son named Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ.”*

**Session 2:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

This week, kids learned about Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Joseph and Mary were betrothed. In Bible times, this was a serious agreement that one could not just simply break. When Joseph heard Mary was pregnant, he decided to divorce her quietly. But everything changed when God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph that Mary’s baby was from the Holy Spirit, therefore Joseph should continue with his plans to marry Mary. God made a promise through the prophet Isaiah that a virgin would have a son named Immanuel. Matthew reminded his readers of this promise and testified that Jesus is this Immanuel. Read Matthew 1:21,23 with your family. Talk about the two names Matthew recorded for the coming Messiah. Invite everyone to share other names for the Messiah. Which name for the Messiah is your favorite? Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 1:18-23

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Bible Verse: Matthew 1:23

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus is Immanuel.

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus is Immanuel who came to save His people from their sin.

A Message for Joseph

Matthew 1:18-23

*God had a plan—a plan to rescue His people from sin. God’s plan was to send Jesus, His Son, to earth. God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.*

*Mary had promised to marry a man named Joseph. Joseph was a good man who always tried to do what was right. When Joseph heard Mary was pregnant, he did not want to be married to her anymore. But Joseph didn’t want to hurt or embarrass Mary, so he planned to stop their marriage in secret.*

*But God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph, “Don’t be afraid to marry Mary. Mary will have a son. The baby is from the Holy Spirit. You are to name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins.” Joseph believed God and he obeyed God.*

*God was keeping a promise He had made long ago through the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah promised that a woman would have a son and name Him Immanuel. Immanuel means “God is with us.” Jesus would be God with us on earth.*

**Session 3:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Christmas is an exciting season. It is also stressful and packed with more events and celebrations than any other time of the year. It is easy to lose sight of why we are celebrating. As a family, take time to pause and reflect on why we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Share with your family your favorite Christmas gift or memory. Then read the story of Jesus’ birth as a family (Luke 2:1-20). Talk about how the first Christmas changed everything. God sent us His Son, the greatest gift, and our world has never been the same. Check out this week’s discussion questions on the back of the Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Bible Verse: Luke 2:11

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus, our Savior, was born in Bethlehem.

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus, our Savior and Lord, was born in Bethlehem.

The Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:24-25; Luke 2

*Long ago, the prophets promised that a baby would be born. The time for this special promise to happen arrived. God told Mary and Joseph that Mary would have a special baby. They should name the baby Jesus. Jesus was God’s Son and would rescue the world from sin.*

*One day, the ruler of the land named Caesar Augustus sent an order to everyone. Caesar wanted to count all of the people he ruled over. Everyone had to travel to his hometown to be counted.*

*Joseph lived in Nazareth but was from Bethlehem, the city of David. He was part of the family of King David. So, Joseph traveled to Bethlehem with Mary. While in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth. The lodging place was full, so Mary had her baby, wrapped Him in cloth, and laid Him in a manger—a place that was used to feed animals.*

*Near Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were protecting their sheep late at night. Suddenly, an angel appeared and the shepherds were very, very scared. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I have good news for you that will bring people great joy. Today in the city of David, a Savior, Messiah the Lord, was born for you! So you will know this is true, I promise you will find the baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.”*

*Then thousands of angels appeared and they praised God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to the people He favors!”*

*The angels left and the shepherds said, “Let’s hurry to Bethlehem.”*

*The shepherds hurried and they found Mary and Joseph and the baby who was lying in the manger.*

*After seeing Jesus, the shepherds told others what they were told about the baby. Everyone who heard it was amazed.*

*The shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for everything they had seen and heard.*

**Session 4:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Some time after the birth of the Savior, a group of wise men arrived in Jerusalem searching for the child. Herod’s leaders recalled the prophecy of Micah that promised the Messiah would be born in the city of Bethlehem. The wise men joyfully followed the star that guided them to Bethlehem to Jesus. The men bowed down and worshiped Jesus, giving Him three precious gifts. This week, talk about ways your family can worship Jesus. Think about the gifts (time, talent, and other) you are bringing and giving to the one who was born king of the Jews. Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 2

Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21

Bible Verse: Psalm 29:2

Younger Kids Text Truth: We should worship Jesus.

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus is worthy of worship.

THE WISE MEN

Matthew 2

*Some time after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East arrived in Jerusalem trying to find the child. They had followed the star they saw in the night sky. The wise men were asking, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews?”*

*King Herod felt threatened when he heard this. He was the king and he didn’t want anyone taking that away from him. Herod called together all his leaders and asked them where the Messiah was to be born. Scripture recorded that the Messiah would be born in the city of Bethlehem. The leaders quoted the prophet Micah and told King Herod where Jesus was to be born.*

*Herod called the wise men in to meet with him. He found out exactly what time the star had appeared in the sky. Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find the child and report back to him. He claimed he wanted to go to worship Him, too. This was not the truth. He really wanted to kill Jesus.*

*The wise men, after listening to the king, went on their way to Bethlehem. Again, they saw the star and followed it to the house where Jesus was with His mother, Mary. The wise men fell down and worshiped Jesus. They opened their treasures and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

*God warned the wise men through a dream not to go back to King Herod. The wise men obeyed and traveled back to their home country by another way.*

**Session 5:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Today, girls and boys learned about the baptism of Jesus. John the Baptist had been preparing the people for the coming Messiah. John preached that people needed to repent of their sin, and he baptized those who repented. When Jesus came to the Jordan River and requested John baptize Him, John initially was not sure this was the right step. But Jesus assured John that baptizing Jesus was the way to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus had given us an example to follow. When we are baptized, we are acknowledging that we have repented and believe in Jesus’ sacrifice to pay for our sin. This week, kids may have questions about getting baptized. Take time as a family to clarify for children that baptism does not save us. Share the gospel and help kids understand that baptism is a symbol of our repentance and trust in Jesus to save us. Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 3:13-17

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:18

Bible Verse: John 15:10

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus followed God’s plan by being baptized.

Older Kids Text Truth: Because Jesus was always obedient to God's plan, Jesus was baptized.

The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17

*God chose John, the cousin of Jesus and the son of Zechariah, to be His messenger. John was preaching in the wilderness near the Jordan River that people needed to repent of their sin to receive forgiveness. Then he baptized the people as a sign that they had repented of their sin.*

*One day as John was baptizing the people, Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John. But John tried to stop Jesus and said, “I should be baptized by You. But You want me to baptize You instead?”*

*Jesus told John, “Yes. This is the way for us to obey God.” Jesus was telling John that it was God’s plan for John to baptize Jesus. By being baptized, Jesus was showing people that He was the Messiah they had been waiting for.*

*John baptized Jesus. As Jesus came up from below the water, the heavens opened. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as a dove. And a voice from heaven spoke, “You are My beloved Son. I take delight in You!”*

**Session 6:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus was led by God’s Spirit into the wilderness. After fasting for 40 days and 40 nights, the tempter approached our Savior. Three times the devil offered Jesus a temptation to sin, and three times Jesus refuted the temptation with the Word of God. As a family, read and talk about Psalm 119:11. Choose a verse for your family to memorize this week. Challenge everyone to hide God’s Word in their heart so that they may resist sin. Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 4:1-11

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:18

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11

Younger Kids Text Truth: God’s Word helps us resist temptation.

Older Kids Text Truth: We can follow Jesus' example of using God's Word to resist temptation.

Jesus Resisted Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11

*God’s Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to face temptation. For 40 days and 40 nights, He ate nothing and He was hungry. The devil came to Jesus and said, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”*

*Jesus replied, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

*Next, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem. They stood on the top of the temple. The devil said, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: He will give His angels orders concerning You, and they will support You with their hands so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.”*

*Jesus replied, “It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God.”*

*The devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And the devil said, “I will give You all these things if You will fall down and worship me.”*

*Jesus said, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.”*

*Immediately the devil left. Then angels came to Jesus and began to serve Him.*

**Session 7:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most famous teachings of Jesus. This week, boys and girls examined what Jesus taught His followers about loving and obeying God. Gather family members around a lamp. Turn the lamp on and off to demonstrate the power of light. Then read Jesus’ words recorded in Matthew 5:14-16. Talk about how we are called to bring glory to God through our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 5–7

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:18

Bible Verse: Matthew 5:16

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God.

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus taught His followers how to love and obey God with their thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5–7

*Crowds of people gathered to hear Jesus teach. When He saw the people, He went up on the mountain and sat down. His disciples came near and Jesus began to teach them.*

*“You are the salt of the earth. If salt is no longer tasty, it is not good. It can only be thrown away. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden from sight. People do not light a lamp and cover it up with a basket. People light a lamp and put it on a stand to give light to the entire house. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give God in heaven glory.”*

*Then Jesus taught His disciples about prayer and how to pray. He gave them an example: “Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, Your name is honored and holy. May Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth just like it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we forgive those who owe us. Please help us resist the devil and his temptations.”*

*Jesus told the people not to worry. God takes care of the flowers and the birds. They don’t worry about what to wear or eat. God cares for them.*

*Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. And God will provide for you. Don’t worry.”*

*Jesus also told parables. He said, “People who hear what I say and believe and act on it will be like the sensible man who built his house on the rock. The rain came, the rivers rose, and the winds blew hard against the house. But the house didn’t fall because it was built on the solid rock foundation. People who hear My words and ignore them are like the foolish man who built His house on the sand. The rain came, the rivers rose, and the winds blew hard against the house. Then the house collapsed.”*

**Session 8:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

This week, girls and boys learned about three people that Jesus healed during His ministry on earth. A centurion is one of the main people in today’s Bible story. A centurion was a Roman soldier that oversaw around 100 soldiers. As a man with authority, the centurion recognized that Jesus was also a man of authority. The centurion believed that if Jesus said the word, his servant would be healed. This Roman soldier understood and believed that Jesus has power over sickness. Jesus acknowledged that the centurion had great faith. While this week’s Bible story highlights Jesus’ power over sickness, our Text Truth explains that Jesus is all-powerful. He is God the Son and has authority over everything. Invite family members to name things or people that Jesus is more powerful than (storms, celebrities, animals, and so on). Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 8:1-15

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:18

Bible Verse: Colossians 1:16-17

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus has power over everything—even sickness.

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus is God the Son and has authority over everything—even sickness.

Jesus Healed People

Matthew 8:1-15

*One day after Jesus finished teaching, He walked down from the mountain. A man with a skin disease came to Jesus. “Lord, if You want, You can heal me.” Jesus reached out and touched the man. Immediately the man was healed.*

*Then Jesus traveled with His disciples to the town of Capernaum. A centurion came to Jesus. The man begged Jesus, “Lord, my servant is at home paralyzed and in pain.”*

*Jesus said, “I will come and heal Him.”*

*“Lord,” the centurion said, “I am not worthy to have You come to my house, under my roof. If you will say the word, I know that my servant will be healed.”*

*Jesus was amazed and said to His followers, “I assure you: I have not found anyone in Israel with so great a faith as this man. Many Gentiles (the people who are not Jewish) will be in heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But many Israelites will not be in heaven because they do not believe in Me.”*

*Jesus told the centurion, “Go. You have believed and it will happen.” The servant of the centurion was healed at that very moment.*

*Next, Jesus went to Peter’s house. Peter’s mother-in-law was sick with a fever. Jesus touched the woman’s hand and her fever left. She got out of bed and started to serve Jesus. Jesus continued healing and preaching everywhere He went.*

**Session 9:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Today, girls and boys wrapped up their study of the book of Matthew. After hearing of the death of His relative John the Baptist, Jesus climbed on a boat and sought a quiet place to be alone. But the crowds followed Him. Jesus climbed from the boat, saw the crowd, and felt compassion. He began to heal the sick. In the evening, the disciples suggested that the people be sent away to find food. But Jesus took 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and fed over 5,000 men plus women and children. Jesus encountered difficult, tragic news, but He did not allow that to stop Him from caring for the needs of the people—spiritually and physically. Sometimes God provides for others through us. He uses us to help care for the needs of people. As a family, look at the ways your church is caring for others and find one or two ways to join in. Check out discussion questions for today’s Bible story on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:13-36

Memory Verse: Matthew 28:18

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:19

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jesus cared for the needs of the people.

Older Kids Text Truth: Jesus abundantly provided for the people's needs.

Jesus Fed the Crowd

Matthew 14:13-36

*Jesus got on a boat to go to a quiet place alone, but the people followed Him. Jesus climbed from the boat to the shore and saw the huge crowd of people. Jesus felt compassion for the people and began to heal those who were sick.*

*In the evening, the disciples told Jesus, “It is late. Send the people away so they will go to buy food to eat.”*

*Jesus replied, “The people do not need to go. Give them something to eat.”*

*The disciples told Jesus, “We only have two fish and five loaves of bread.”*

*Jesus told the disciples to bring the food to Him. He told the people to sit down on the grass.*

*Jesus took the bread and fish and blessed them. He began breaking the loaves into pieces. He gave the pieces to the disciples, and they gave them to the crowds of people.*

*The people ate until they were full. Then the leftover pieces were put into baskets until 12 baskets were full!*

*About 5,000 men, plus women and children, ate that day.*

**Session 10:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Today, kids began a three-week study in the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah’s ministry lasted for 40 years. He ministered during the reigns of multiple kings of Judah. God spoke to Jeremiah and explained that He had a plan for Jeremiah that began before Jeremiah was born. God had created Jeremiah, and He had chosen Jeremiah to serve Him. Jeremiah saw his youth and lack of speaking experience. But that did not dissuade the Lord. Jeremiah was called and God would equip him. Share any family photos you have of your children from their first days of life or with your family. Remind everyone that long before you knew about them, God had chosen them and had a plan for them. Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Jeremiah 1

Memory Verse: Romans 14:12

Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11

Younger Kids Text Truth: God had a plan for Jeremiah’s life.

Older Kids Text Truth: God chose Jeremiah to be a prophet and had a plan for his life.

The Calling of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 1

*Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah. There were several different kings of Judah during the time Jeremiah was a prophet. Some were good kings who followed God. Most were bad kings who led Israel to sin and worship false gods. Jeremiah was a prophet for 40 years. Jeremiah wrote about when God called him to be His prophet.*

*God said, “I chose you before I created you in the womb. I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.”*

*Jeremiah was surprised, “Oh no, God! I don’t know how to speak. I am too young.”*

*But God told Jeremiah, “Do not say you are too young. You will go to everyone that I send you to and you will speak what I tell you to. Do not be afraid. I will be with you and will rescue you. I have given you the words to say.”*

*Later, Jeremiah had visions. A vision is a way God communicates with people. Jeremiah saw an almond tree and a boiling pot in two of his visions. God had a message for the people. God’s people had worshiped false gods, and sin always has a price.*

*Next, God told Jeremiah to get ready. “Tell the people everything that I say to tell them. Don’t be afraid. I will be with you. You will be strong,” God promised Jeremiah. God’s people would fight against Jeremiah. They would not like the messages He had from God. But God told Jeremiah, “I am with you to rescue you. They will not defeat you.”*

**Session 11:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Life as an Old Testament prophet was often hard because the people of God did not like hearing the prophets’ messages about their sin. Jeremiah was given a message from the Lord. God wanted the people to repent so He could relent from sending disaster to the people. So, He sent Jeremiah to the temple with a message that if the people did not repent, the temple would become like Shiloh. Shiloh was once a location for the Israelites to worship God, but because of their sin, God had allowed Shiloh to be destroyed. Rather than hearing Jeremiah’s message and repenting of their sin, the religious leaders grabbed Jeremiah and wanted to kill him. Jeremiah was rescued by the government officials who recognized that Jeremiah’s message was from the Lord. Share a time when someone warned you about sin. Did you listen? What happened? Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Jeremiah 26:1-19

Memory Verse: Romans 14:12

Bible Verse: Jeremiah 26:13a

Younger Kids Text Truth: Jeremiah faithfully shared God’s Word with the people.

Older Kids Text Truth: God calls believers to faithfully share His Word with others.

Jeremiah’s Message at the Temple

Jeremiah 26:1-19

*When Jehoiakim (jih HOY uh kim) was the king, God spoke to Jeremiah and told him to go to the temple and share a message with the people. God warned Jeremiah to tell the people everything God said.*

*“Maybe the people will listen and turn from their sin.” God said. God’s message was: “If you do not listen and obey My instructions and the words of the prophets that I have sent you again and again, I will make the temple like Shiloh.”*

*Shiloh was once a place where the Israelites worshiped God. Because of Israel’s sin, God allowed the Philistines to destroy Shiloh. God’s people thought that having the temple made them safe from their enemies. They believed they could sin and not have consequences! They didn’t understand that God cared more about their hearts than a special building. Jeremiah obeyed God. He went to the temple and he shared God’s message. When Jeremiah finished, the religious leaders grabbed Jeremiah. They were angry. “You must die! You can’t say Jerusalem and the temple will be destroyed,” they told Jeremiah. A crowd of people gathered around Jeremiah.*

*The government officials heard what was happening and they came from the palace to see what was going on. The religious leaders told the officials that Jeremiah should be killed.*

*Jeremiah shared God’s message with the government officials. The officials told the religious leaders, “This man shouldn’t be killed. He has told us a message from God.”*

*Eventually it was decided that Jeremiah should not be hurt.*

**Session 12:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Isaiah 40:8 says, “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.” Today, kids learned of a king who thought he could destroy God’s Word, but the king was wrong. The Lord had given Jeremiah a message to record on a scroll. Jeremiah dictated God’s message to his scribe, Baruch. Baruch then took the scroll to the temple and read God’s words to the people. The officials took the scroll and read it to King Jehoiakim. In a sign of total defiance to God, the king cut the scroll and threw the pieces into the fire. But God had Jeremiah make another scroll. God’s Word will not be limited by humans. As you review this week’s Bible story, invite family members to share ways that they can honor and obey God’s Word. Invite family members to pray for each other to respond to God’s Word with honor, repentance, and obedience. Check out more discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Jeremiah 36

Memory Verse: Romans 14:12

Bible Verse: Psalm 119:34

Younger Kids Text Truth: God’s Word should be honored and obeyed.

Older Kids Text Truth: Our response to God's Word should be honor, repentance, and obedience.

Jeremiah and the Scroll

Jeremiah 36

*One day God gave Jeremiah, the prophet, a message for His people. God told Jeremiah to record the message on a scroll.*

*“Maybe when My people hear the troubles that are coming, they will repent of their sin. Then I will forgive them of their sin,” God told Jeremiah.*

*Jeremiah told his scribe, Baruch (BAY rook), the message God had for His people. The people of Judah did not like Jeremiah. He had been warning them of the consequences of their sin for many years. But the people didn’t want to believe Jeremiah. They banned Jeremiah from the temple, so Jeremiah sent Baruch to the temple to read the scroll to the people. Baruch did what Jeremiah said. When the officials heard Baruch read the scroll, they knew immediately that the king needed to hear God’s message. The officials warned Baruch that he and Jeremiah should hide while they took the scroll to the king.*

*The officials went to King Jehoiakim (jih HOY uh kim). The king sent a man named Jehudi (jih HYOO digh) to get the scroll. Jehudi read the scroll to the king while the king sat in front of a warm fire. When Jehudi finished reading three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut the scroll with his knife and threw the columns into the fire. The evil king did not care what God said. When the entire scroll was gone, the king ordered that Baruch and Jeremiah be arrested. But God protected Baruch and Jeremiah.*

*God again spoke to Jeremiah. “Take another scroll and write on it the message that was written on the original scroll the king burned. Tell the king: You have burned the scroll. Your kingdom will be conquered by Babylon. No one in your family will ever be king again.”*

*Jeremiah obeyed. He told Baruch what God said and Baruch wrote it on another scroll.*

*God’s Word is holy and special. God would not allow the king to destroy His words. The king would have consequences for his sin.*

**Session 13:**

Dear Parents or Guardians,

While boys and girls finished their study of the book of Jeremiah last week, they did not finish their study of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah also wrote the book of Lamentations. Lamentations is a series of laments Jeremiah wrote after the people of Judah had been conquered by an enemy nation. Because of their sin, the people faced devastating consequences and the city was destroyed. As Jeremiah looked at the city and the destruction, he wrote to God about his thoughts and feelings. Jeremiah poured out his heart to his Lord. We, too, can share our feelings with God—the good, the bad, and the ugly. God is our source of hope and comfort during tough times. Read Lamentations 3:22-24 and check out the discussion questions on this week’s Family Card.

Bible Passage: Lamentations 1–5

Memory Verse: Romans 14:12

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 5:7

Younger Kids Text Truth: When we are sad, we can talk to God.

Older Kids Text Truth: When we are sad, we can talk to God because He gives us hope for tomorrow.

The Book of Lamentations

Lamentations 1–5

*Jeremiah was a prophet. God had sent Jeremiah messages to warn the people to repent of their sin. But the people ignored Jeremiah’s messages. And eventually, the people paid the price for their sin.*

*Jeremiah was deeply sad. The Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. Many of the people were taken far away. The temple was destroyed. Much of the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. It was a very, very sad time for God’s people. The book of Lamentations records five poems, or laments, Jeremiah wrote to describe his sadness.*

*“How she (Jerusalem) sits alone, the city once crowded with people! She weeps. There is no one to offer her comfort. Jerusalem has sinned and has become an object of scorn. Everyone who honored her now despises her.”*

*Sin destroys. It always hurts relationships. God’s relationship with His people was broken because of their sin. Jeremiah understood how serious sin was. But Jeremiah also had hope because he remembered God’s love.*

*“Because of the LORD’S faithful love we do not perish. His mercies never end. They are new every morning! The LORD is my portion; therefore I will put my hope in Him. The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. The LORD will not reject His people forever. Even if He allows suffering, God will show compassion because of His faithful love. God does not enjoy seeing His people suffer.”*

*Jeremiah ended by praying to God. “Joy has left our hearts. Our dancing has turned to mourning. LORD, bring us back to You.”*