

AT HOME FAITH TIME FOR PRETEENS

TO BE DONE WITH PARENTS IN PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

INTRODUCTION

Welcome, 5th and 6th Graders, to **At Home Faith Time!** Soon you'll be entering Confirmation, where we will dig into faith and really learn about what it means to follow Jesus.

To help get you ready, you'll receive a resource twice a month that will contain a few pages of Bible story along with some simple memory work. Contained within those pages will also be some tips, hints, and questions to help you as you read the story and memorize important parts of our faith.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Each edition will contain two sections, the "Preteen Section" and the "Parent Section".

The preteen section will contain a Bible story and something to memorize. Parents are encouraged to read these stories along with their preteens, as well as do the memory work with them.

The preteen section will also contain lots of helpful tips and questions. Parents and preteens could discuss these questions together as you read through the story, or they could serve as conversation questions at dinner.

In the parent section, each question is given a little context and explanation. If parents need help leading a discussion with their children, use this section for inspiration. Often most of the explanations contain more questions. That's how faith works.

You may find you have more questions than are listed. It's OK to ask more questions. If you have a question, ask it! Talk together about these additional questions, and if you don't find a satisfactory answer, ask your pastor. Who knows? Maybe you'll stump the pastor!

Parent Tip! *The most important part of this resource is the opportunity to talk together about our faith.*

*The **Notice** questions are to help with comprehension, but the additional discussion questions in the Parent Section generally have more than one answer. The point isn't finding the right answer; the point is exploring our faith together. Talk with your preteen! Share you answers. Discover theirs.*

And you don't have to cover every question, nor do you need to do them all at once. *You could read the story together one night and discuss the questions another, or talk about just one or two questions every night.*

BIBLE STORIES

We won't read the WHOLE Bible, but you'll read stories in much more detail than you get in Sunday school. The hope is to give you a clear picture of the Bible story from beginning to end.

We'll be using the NIV translation (with minor translation corrections), which is written at a 7th grade reading level. Each edition will include 15 to 30 minutes of Bible reading.

There will be Bible references to tell you where to find the stories in the Bible, but lots of content will be trimmed out, especially most difficult or mature parts of the stories.

INTRODUCTION TO READING THE BIBLE

As you read the Bible together with your family, you might find yourself asking, "Did all this really happen?" That is a question we'll talk about in Confirmation.

For now, you're invited to set that question aside and focus on asking some different questions, the questions the Bible is trying to answer.

As you read, ask yourself four simple questions:

- 1) What is God doing in this story?
- 2) What does this story tell me about God?
- 3) What does this story tell me about me?
- 4) What does this story tell me about my relationship with God?

Parent Tip! *If you only have time to talk with your preteens about a few questions, these are the ones to make sure you cover.*

MEMORY WORK

Throughout the year, you're invited to memorize some of the important basics of our faith. The memory work will cover topics such as: The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the books of the Bible, key passages of Scripture, and more.

For those who complete their memory work, there may be prizes at the end of the year to celebrate.

THE HOPE

By getting yourself familiar with the Bible and memorizing some of the central words of faith, it will help us in Confirmation to be able to explore our faith in depth. We'll be able to have a much more fun and enjoyable time because you'll already know all the basics.