

OCT | NOV | DEC

DISCIPLER

ADULT QUARTERLY | 4TH QUARTER 2022



New Testament
**GROWING
IN GRACE**

Special Topic
**FOLLOWING
THE LEADER**

Old Testament
**THE PROMISED
MESSIAH**



GROWING TOGETHER
Sabbath School Curriculum

DECLARE HIS GLORY PSALM 96:3 AMONG THE NATIONS



National Shoebox Collection Week:

NOVEMBER 14-21

samaritanspurse.org/occ



Your family can share the Gospel simply by packing a shoebox full of gifts! Samaritan's Purse partners with churches in more than 100 countries to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need along with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**SHOEBOX GIFTS
DELIVERED SINCE 1993:**

168 Million

Many shoebox recipients are also invited to participate in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey, where they learn to follow Jesus and share Him with others.

**BOYS AND GIRLS
ENROLLED IN THE GREATEST
JOURNEY SINCE 2009:**

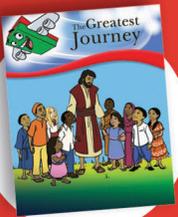
18.9 Million



As boys and girls retell the Scripture stories they learn in class, family and friends come to Christ who, in turn, disciple others. The body of Christ multiplies—and it all starts with a shoebox gift!

**CHILDREN COMMITTED
TO SHARING THEIR FAITH
LAST YEAR:**

2.1 Million





NOVEMBER

Following the Leader

We know how it should work. Parents teach their children to love the Lord, and when the children grow up, they teach their children to love the Lord. From generation to generation, families worship God together, passing on their faith.

But we also know it doesn't always look like that. A prodigal leaves home. A marriage dissolves. A grandparent dies. Somebody is ill or rebellious or mistreated. Somebody is angry or hurt. Somebody works too much and somebody doesn't work at all. People mess up.

Our reality doesn't match the ideal. Should we just give up?

We don't give up when we see pictures of perfect cakes in the recipe book. We don't quit growing flowers even though ours never look as good as the ones on the seed package. We watch the Master's tournament at Augusta, even though we'll never wear a green jacket and may never score below par.

We are grateful for the ideal; we are inspired by it even in our imperfections. So in this unit we will look at God's picture of what our families should be. We keep trying, working, pressing on, even when we know we have holes and flaws and problems. We need to plant the seeds to influence this generation (though imperfectly), who will also influence the generations to come (also imperfectly). We do what we can, intentionally, with our eyes on the ideal, so that the heritage we provide for the generations that follow will be a solid foundation, a strong witness of faith, and a blessing to those in our families and those who observe them.



Week 7 [November 12, 2022]

FAMILY THEME:

HONORING GOD'S WORD

READ:

Nehemiah 8:1-18

11/12/11/13 **WEEKEND**

Use this section to begin thinking about this week's study.

Reading God's Word can bring about powerful changes in our lives.

1. God's People Should Read God's Word Together (Nehemiah 8:1-6)

God's Word should be shared and handled with respect.

- *Who gathered to hear God's Word (verses 1-3)?*
- *How did they respond to it (verses 3, 5-6)?*

2. God's Word Requires Thoughtful Study (Nehemiah 8:7-8, 12)

When God's Word seems hard to understand, He sends us helpers who help us hear what God is trying to say.

- *Why did the Levites explain the Scriptures to the people (verse 8)?*
- *How did God's Word, and the understanding of it, affect their lives (verse 12)?*

3. Hearing God's Word is an Occasion for Celebration (Nehemiah 8:9-18)

Even though God's Word reveals to us our sin, it also shows us His strength.

- *When the people heard the words of the Law, what was their initial response and why (verse 9)?*
- *What message turned their reaction from sorrow to joy (verses 10-11)?*
- *What does their response encourage you to do (verses 12-13)?*

THE WORD OF LIFE

THIS WEEK'S GOAL:

To prioritize God's Word in our lives

Each day it seems like we are literally flooded with information. Opening our email alone can easily take up an hour or more of time just to sort out what is there and get to the seemingly important stuff... and then before you know it, the inbox is overflowing with more. Then of course there are cell phone calls, text messages, social media, and the list could go on. Finding ways to manage the information overload can be challenging indeed! Finding the time, and being intentional about the things we focus on, consume and invest our time in is important in the day and age we live in. In addition to family, and friends, we focus this week on God and Scripture. Taking time to invest well in our relationship with God which is nourished through Scripture and prayer, is what we'll be focusing on this week.

11/14

MONDAY

Read Deuteronomy 31:9-13

This passage reflects on one of those practices that has been meaningful to the Christian community for centuries. There is something rich that can happen as we gather together to listen to the Word of God being read out loud. We can do this privately on our own of course, or even listen to it being read through some sort of media in the comfort of our homes, but there is still something deeper that can happen as we gather together as a community to listen together. While there may well be times when for public health reasons we might refrain from gathering in groups large or small, there is something special about being together in person. What do you appreciate the most about small group gatherings for worship or the reading of God's Word? What do you appreciate the most about larger group gatherings for worship or the reading of God's Word? If you are not drawn to either, what makes you resistant?

Thought for the Day: *God's Word will always make an impact on those who hear it with responsive hearts and minds.*

11/15 TUESDAY

Read John 8:38-40

Studying Scripture is a vital part of growing in our relationship with God. Yet, like so many other good things in life, there are helpful ways to do this, and not-so-helpful ways. The passage today is taken from a conversation that Jesus was having with some in His day in regard to studying the Scripture in ways that were not helpful. Take a few moments to review the verses if you have not done so already. What would you say had gone wrong in their program of diligent study? How is it possible to be well-informed about Scripture and yet not grasp what it is that Scripture is trying to say? When you read the Scriptures, in what ways do you find them "testifying about" Jesus? What questions does this passage raise for you?

Thought for the Day: *The Scriptures may be more about communicating something about a person than just giving information.*

11/16 WEDNESDAY

Read Acts 17:10-11

There are few things more rewarding than those times when we have something to share that matters to us, and the people we are sharing with actually take it seriously enough to listen and respond. Those moments where we sense a connection or a "meeting of the minds" are ones that can be refreshing! Paul and Silas arrived in Berea and experienced one of those occasions. The people in Berea were both eager to hear, but also careful as they listened and learned. They asked questions and examined the Scriptures daily, and took care to be thorough and careful in what they were learning. They didn't just take Paul's word for it, they checked things out, asked questions, did their homework, and as a result, grounded their faith well. God invites us not only to be inspired by the next great thing, but also to do our homework and ask good questions as we learn.

Thought for the Day: *When God's Word penetrates our lives, we get excited about digging deeper.*

HOMEconnection

This week your child learned about **Honoring God's Word**. Go on a Bible hunt to see how many copies of God's Word you can find at your house. Most Christian households in America have several, but how often do we take the time to pause and really listen to what the Scriptures say, or more importantly, catch glimpses of the Jesus they are

11/17 THURSDAY

Read Colossians 3:15-17

If you have lived in an apartment or rental house, you know there are limits on what you can do with your space. It might feel temporary. You know you can't put down roots and be completely at home. But when you are finally able to purchase a house and know it is yours, you begin to feel like you can finally settle in and live there. It's the feeling of being at home, and knowing this is where you live. Maybe that is somewhat like the sentiment Paul wrote about in this verse. The joy and "at homeness" that comes when God's Word moves in and puts down roots, making itself at home where you live. Of course you don't need a building for that—he talks about this happening in our hearts. The way we connect with God is through His Word becoming so much at home in us, that our lives reflect this as part of the family. What speaks to you the most powerfully in today's passage?

Thought for the Day: *When you dwell in God's Word, you will pass on the message with a song in your heart.*

11/18 FRIDAY

Read 2 Chronicles 34:30-32

I can see them gathering to hear God's Word read aloud—young, old, strong, frail, male, female, rich, poor, priests, commoners, greatest, and least. It was so important that no one should be left out. The message was powerful and life-changing. King Josiah made a covenant right then and there to walk after the Lord, keep His commandments with all of his heart, and do whatever God asked of him. This was another of those amazing moments of a community finding purpose again through God's Word. It was inspiring and contagious! How often do we listen to God's Word in ways in which we are not really tuned in? Our minds wander as we check social media instead of listening. Distractions are so woven into our lives, it takes intention to weed them out. What are you hearing in today's passage that speaks to you?

Thought for the Day: *When we let God's Word penetrate our hearts, it not only affects our lives, but it also affects the lives of those around us.*

constantly trying to direct our attention to? In 2 Tim 3:16 we are reminded that all Scripture is "God breathed"—something that is meant to "come alive" as we read and study it together. Just like Adam in the garden before God breathed into his body and made him a living person, the Bible is just words on a page until we sense God breathing life into them as we read, and we catch glimpses of God's amazing love and grace that makes us alive, and like the people in Nehemiah 8, ready to rejoice!