

God ordained the family before He ordained the church and before there was even the first nation. Each nation and every church is only as strong as, only as educated as, and only as godly as the family. Too long our nation has wandered in the wilderness without the moral guidance which can only come from a biblical foundation. We have decided to change the declining course of our nation and return strength and dignity to the church by building strong families who possess an elemental knowledge of the foundational truths discovered in the Bible.

In order to accomplish this we must strengthen the core family leadership and restore a voice to God's primary leaders in the home.

I want to charge the head of each household to restore the strength and dignity God intended for the family, the church, and the nation by laying a godly foundation on the solid rock of God's Word. I encourage each individual and every family to commit a minimum of only 20 minutes once per week to accomplish this commission. I challenge you to set aside either a Tuesday or Thursday evening ("T" nights) for an old fashioned family Bible story time. Dedicate yourself, make this a priority, and take advantage of each week's opportunity to increase the quality of your relationships. Invest in your family by participating in COTR family "T" nights in 2010.

God Bless,

Ron Hammonds

Instructions: Inside this book you will find notes to help you prepare for this week's family Bible story time. Familiarize yourself with the content, turn off the television, close the computers, silence the cell phones, and gather the family ... this is a time for God and family. Open your Bibles to the scripture reference and, instead of reading the scriptures, simply tell the story in your own words. Conclude the story time with an opportunity for each person to discuss what they have learned. Close in prayer.

Week 1

Theme: Relationships

Character: Adam

Scripture Reference: Genesis 2:4-25

Date: Approximately 4000 years before Christ, just after the dawn of creation

Place: The Garden of Eden, presumably in the modern day country of Iraq

The Story: After God created the heavens and the earth, the plants, the birds, the fish, and the animals, He planted a garden and created Adam. However, Adam was lonely ...

Conclusion: God never intended for His relationship with man to take the place of man's relationship with man.

Optional Questions:

1. What was Adam's wife's name?
2. God took a _____ from Adam in order to create the first woman.
3. Name one thing God said to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Bonus:

Why do you think God created the woman?

Week 2

Theme: Deception

Character: Eve

Scripture Reference: Genesis 3:1-19

Date: Approximately 4000 years before Christ

Place: The Garden of Eden, presumably in the modern day country of Iraq

The Story: All was well with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden until one day ...

Conclusion: Not everything we think, not everything we feel, and not everything we want is good for us. God knows best.

Optional Questions:

1. Who spoke to Eve in the Garden?
2. Does the Bible say she ate an apple?
3. Name one question the serpent asked Eve.

Bonus:

Why do you think Eve ate of the forbidden fruit?

What do you think Eve should have done?

Week 3

Theme: Connections

Character: Noah

Scripture Reference: Genesis 6:13-7:12

Date: Approximately 1650 years after the creation of Adam

Place: Most likely in the area now known as Iraq and Iran, not too far from the Persian Gulf

The Story: Noah and his family were not like all the other people on the earth who were living wicked and evil lives. God decided to destroy mankind but ...

Conclusion: Who you are connected to can determine your future. Noah's three daughters-in-law were saved from destruction only because of who they were connected to.

Support Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 22:24

Optional Questions:

1. How many children does the Bible say Noah had?
2. What were the names of Noah's sons?
3. How long did the first rain last?

Bonus:

Why do you think God saved Noah?

Week 4

Theme: Provision

Character: Abraham

Scripture Reference: Genesis 22:1-19

Date: 2000 BC

Place: Mount Moriah, the place which would later be called the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

The Story: When Abraham was 133 years old, he was told to sacrifice his 33 year old son, Isaac. God told Abraham to take Isaac and go ...

Conclusion: The treasure of God's provision for your life is found in the field of God's will for your life.

Optional Questions:

1. Approximately how old was Isaac when Abraham was told to sacrifice him?
2. Name the mountain Abraham and Isaac climbed.
3. In what modern city is that mountain located today?
4. What did Abraham call that place?

Bonus:

How do you think Isaac felt when his father tied him on the altar?

Week 5

Theme: A Love Story

Character: Rebekah

Scripture Reference: Genesis 24:1-67

Date: 2000 BC

Place: Near the town of Hebron, only 20 miles south of Jerusalem

The Story: When Isaac was 40 his father, Abraham, sent a servant into a foreign land to find a wife for Isaac. The servant needed God's help so he said to God ...

Conclusion: God wants to involve Himself in your relationship and make it a love story.

Optional Questions:

1. By what means did Rebekah travel to go and meet Isaac?
2. How old was Isaac when he married Rebekah?
3. What was Rebekah's brother's name?

Bonus:

Explain why Abraham's servant had the confidence that Rebekah was God's choice.

How do you think Rebekah's family felt about her choice?

Week 6

Theme: Your Focus Makes a Difference

Character: Jacob

Scripture Reference: Genesis 30:25-43

Date: Around 1850 BC

Place: In northern Syria, most likely near the present day Syrian border with Turkey

The Story: God wanted to make Jacob wealthy, and so this is what God did. In a dream Jacob saw ...

Conclusion: In the end, Jacob became wealthy because he gave his sheep a vision to keep them focused. The results were that what they continued to look at they began to look like. Be careful of your focus.

Optional Questions:

1. Which sheep belonged to Jacob: the white sheep or the mixed colored sheep?
2. How many days distance was placed between Jacob's herd and Laban's herd?
3. What inspired Jacob to make the multi-colored fence?

Bonus:

Describe what Jacob did after his dream.

Week 7

Theme: God Has a Plan

Character: Leah

Scripture Reference: Genesis 29:15-35

Date: Around 1850 BC, approximately 2150 to 2175 years after the creation of Adam

Place: At the home of Laban, Rebecca's older brother, in northern Syria, most likely near the present day Syrian border with Turkey

The Story: Jacob's uncle, Laban, wanted to hire Jacob, but what should he pay him? Initially, it was decided ...

Conclusion: Although Leah was not Jacob's choice woman to marry, nonetheless, God had a plan. Leah, not Rachel, is buried with Jacob in the city of Hebron and it is Leah who is the mother of Judah, making her, not Rachel, the great-great-great grandmother of Jesus. Many times God has a plan beyond what we understand at the time.

Optional Questions:

1. Who did Jacob first fall in love with?
2. How many years did Jacob agree to work so he could marry Rebekah?
3. Why do you think Laban secretly gave Leah to Jacob first?

Bonus:

Explain how this could be a part of God's plan.

Week 8

Theme: Participation

Character: Joseph

Scripture Reference: Genesis 37:23-33 39:1-4; 20-22 41:41-44

Date: Around 1800 BC

Place: Begins north of Jerusalem near Shechem, and concludes in Egypt near the present day city of Cairo

The Story: Joseph could have lived life as a complainer and he had every reason to not cooperate in Potiphar's house, in the prison, or in the palace, but ...

Conclusion: We cannot always determine what we go through, but we can decide how we will go through it. Participate in life and blossom where you're planted.

Optional Questions:

1. What did Joseph's brothers do to him?
2. Where did the Ishmaelites take Joseph to sell him?
3. Name three places Joseph lived while in Egypt.

Bonus:

Imagine three things Joseph might have said to encourage himself along the way.

Week 9

Theme: A Baby in the Nile

Character: Moses

Scripture Reference: Exodus 1:15 – 2:10

Date: Near 1550 to 1575 BC

Place: Along the Nile River near the modern day city of Cairo

The Story: God blessed the Israelites when they were slaves in Egypt and their numbers grew to become a threat to Pharaoh so one day Pharaoh decided that he would ...

Conclusion: Exodus 1:12 the more that the children of God are persecuted and afflicted, the more they multiply and grow.

Optional Questions:

1. Name the river into which Moses' mother placed the reed basket.
2. Who found the baby Moses?
3. Who cared for baby Moses as he grew up?

Bonus:

Why do you think Moses felt he was different than others he grew up with?

Week 10

Theme: Dancing Before the Lord

Character: Miriam

Scripture Reference: Exodus 14:21- 15:21

Date: Close to 1500 years Before Christ

Place: The Red or Reed Sea, which some suggest divided Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula in Moses' day

The Story: Pharaoh was angry that he had let the children of Israel leave Egypt, so angry in fact, that he decided he would pursue them and bring them captive back to Cairo. God stood between the Egyptians and the camp of Israel all night. Then Moses ...

Conclusion: This is the first time, but not the last time, that someone was so excited they broke forth into dancing before the Lord. Five hundred years later, King David also danced jubilantly before the Lord, praising Him for His goodness. Dancing is but one way some people demonstrate their praise, worship, and thanksgiving to God.

Support Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:14; Psalms 150:4

Optional Questions:

1. What did Moses have in his hand that he lifted up to part the waters?
2. Why was Pharaoh so angry with God's children?
3. When Miriam led the women in a praise dance to the Lord, what instrument did she play?

Bonus:

Can you think of a New Testament experience each believer is encouraged to participate in which the Apostle Paul likened to God's children crossing the Red Sea?

Week 11

Theme: What We Say Makes a Difference

Character: Joshua

Scripture Reference: Numbers 13:16 - 14:28

Date: Around 1450 BC

Place: In what is currently the land of Israel, between the southern border of Gaza and the city of Beersheva

The Story: Twelve spies entered the Promise Land on a mission for Moses. One of the spies was named Joshua. When the spies returned to give their report to Moses, ten of them ...

Conclusion: Only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter in to the Promise Land 40 years later. It was because God saw their faith and heard what they said. What we say makes a difference.

Support Scripture: Mark 11:22-24

Optional Questions:

1. How many spies did Moses send into the land of Canaan?
2. Who were the two spies who believed God would help them defeat the giants?
3. Why were the children of Israel made to wander in the wilderness for exactly 40 years?

Bonus:

Compare the effects of what the ten spies said to what Joshua and Caleb reported.

Week 12

Theme: Second Chances

Character: Rahab

Scripture Reference: Joshua 2:1-21 6:17

Date: Around 1400-1450 BC

Place: Jericho

The Story: Forty years after the children of Israel refused to go into the Promise Land, Moses died in the wilderness. Joshua became the new leader and he sent two new spies to the city of Jericho. There they met a Canaanite woman named Rahab. She ...

Conclusion: Although Rahab initially made poor choices in life, nonetheless God gave her a second chance. Ultimately she married a prince from the tribe of Judah named Salmon. Salmon and Rahab moved to Bethlehem and had a son named Boaz. Boaz married Ruth and had a son named Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David, the king. Rahab's second chance made her one of the great-great grandmothers of Jesus. God is the God of second chances. Everyone has a future when they place their life in God's hands.

Support Scripture: Matthew 1:5-6; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25

Optional Questions:

1. Where did Rahab hide the ten spies?
2. What color was the cord Rahab was told to hang from her window?
3. Who did Rahab marry?

Bonus:

Do you believe that God has a second chance for everyone?

Week 13

Theme: Fully Following the Lord

Character: Caleb

Scripture Reference: Joshua 14:6-14

Date: Approximately 1425 BC

Place: Caleb spoke to Joshua at Gilgal, a city on the west bank of the Jordan River, two miles north of Jericho. However, Caleb fought the Anakims (giants) and took the city of Hebron, 12 miles south of Jerusalem.

The Story: Caleb was one of the original 12 spies sent by Moses into the Promise Land. He and Joshua stood alone against the other ten and their evil report. These two were the only fully grown men to come out of Egypt and enter the Promise Land at Jericho. It had been 45 years since ...

Conclusion: God never forgets His promise and you never get too old to be blessed. So, fully follow the Lord.

Optional Questions:

1. How old was Caleb when he was chosen to be a spy for Moses?
2. Name the town in Israel that Caleb conquered when he was 85 years old.
3. What did Caleb say to convince Joshua concerning Hebron?

Bonus:

What does fully following the Lord mean?

