

THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!

Chapter 5 – New Rules Day One – Rules about God

Today's reading: Pages 62-65

This reading covers: Exodus 20

Summary: God gives us rules to help us relate to him.

Do together: Have everyone get a piece of paper and cut out what looks like a tablet (see page 38 for a picture). Write the first sentence of the first four commandments on your tablet (starting on page 38: #1 Do not put..., #2 Do not make..., #3 Do not misuse..., #4 Remember to keep...). Post this up on the door to your room or the refrigerator to show that you are going to keep these commandments for God.

Think about: The first four commandments deal with our relationship with God. What are some things that we may place in front of our time with God each day? We hear a lot of people misusing God's name in stores, in school, at work. How can we help people to hear us using God's name in an honoring way? What would it look like for your family keep the Sabbath day holy?

Also read: Matthew 22:34-38

Prayer: Lord, help us to love you with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our minds and put you first each day. We love you Lord. Amen.

Chapter 5 – New Rules

Day Two – Rules about Others

Today's reading: Pages 66-67

This reading covers: Exodus 20

Summary: God gives us rules to help us relate to each other.

Do together: Cut out another tablet just like in Day One but now write commandments 5-10 on them (starting on page 40: #5 Honor your father and mother, #6 Do not commit murder, #7 Do not commit adultery, #8 Do not steal, #9 Do not give..., #10 Do not long for...). Post this next to the first tablet to show everyone how you are going to keep these commandments with each other.

Think about: The rest of the commandments deal with our relationship with others. What is one way we can honor our fathers and mothers? What would other people think about our relationship with God if we stole something or lied about something? What do we long for that belongs to a friend or neighbor? We should be satisfied with what God gave us and thank him for filling all of our needs.

Also read: Matthew 22:39-40

Prayer: Lord, help us to show our faith by how we show Christ's love to others in our speech, thoughts, and actions. Thank you for filling our needs. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 5 – New Rules

Day Three – God’s Presence

Today’s reading: Pages 68-69

This reading covers: Exodus 25-26

Summary: God sets up a way to be with his people.

Do together: Build a tent out of chairs and blankets to tell the story of the sacred tent or tabernacle. Bring the Ten Commandment tablets you made in Days One and Two into the tent to finish it off.

Think about: Before Jesus came, God had Moses and the Israelites build this sacred tent so that he could be with them. Today, what are some ways or even places that God is with us? God has given us the Holy Spirit so that he can be with us wherever we go or wherever we stay.

Also read: John 14:15-18

Prayer: Lord, Thank you for always being with us and never leaving us. Thank you for your Holy Spirit that you have given to us so that we can always have you close to us. Thank you so much for setting up a way for us to be with you. Amen.

Chapter 6 – Wandering Day One – God is Good

Today's reading: Page 70-71

This reading covers: Numbers 13

Summary: God shows his people the land he has ready for them.

Do together: Sing together this song. If you don't know the tune, just read the words.
"God is so good, God is so good, God is so good; He's so good to me. God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer; He's so good to me. Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord; He's so good to me."

Think about: God showed his people the wonderful land he had ready for them. He wanted to provide good things for them. Have children list ways God has been good to them. Then discuss each item or situation and praise God for them.

Also read: James 1:17

Prayer: God, you have been so good to us. Your greatest goodness is seen in the gift of your Son Jesus. Then, you continued to give. Thank you for a wonderful family, a great neighborhood, all the blessings of food and clothing. Thank you for the little things too, Lord; the toys, the fun times and the treats we get. And most of all, thank you for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 6 – Wandering

Day Two – Saying “No” to God

Today’s reading: Pages 72-77

This reading covers: Numbers 14

Summary: God’s people say “no” to going where he wants them to go.

Do together: Play a game of "Yes and No." Ask questions the children may or may not know the answers to. For example:

1. Does helium make a balloon go up?
2. Does a stop sign have four sides?
3. Did Jesus walk on water?
4. Did John walk on water?

Think about: Discuss the affects yes and no answers have on people and on the outcome of certain situations. For example, when a man asks a girl to marry him, her answer will change his entire future. In a similar way, when God asks us to do something, the outcome depends on our answer. If you want to know what God is asking you to do, you only need to look in the Bible.

Also read: Isaiah 6:8

Prayer: Lord, help me to say “yes” to you and “no” to anything that is wrong. Show me in the Bible how to obey you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chapter 6 – Wandering Day Three – Following God Completely

Today's reading: Pages 77-81

This reading covers: Numbers 20 and Deuteronomy 34

Summary: While Moses was a very special man, he did not follow God completely.

Do together: A game of easy, hard and impossible requests.

Easy: 1. Walk to the other side of the room.
 2. Bend over and touch your toes.
 3. Twirl around three times.

Hard: 1. Add 313 and 222 in your head.
 2. Make a sentence out of the letters in the word "emancipate."
 3. Tell a joke that makes me laugh.

Impossible: 1. Stand on your head.
 2. Make a bag of gold appear out of thin air.
 3. Guess what number I am thinking of between one and one million.

Think about: Following God isn't something we do only some of the time. We don't follow him only when things are easy. We should follow God completely every day in all things.

Also read: Proverbs 3:5-6

Prayer: God, give us the strength, wisdom and desire to do what you ask. Show us how to follow you completely every day. Help us to know your will by reading the Bible and praying every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.