



FaithLand is available during the 9:00 & 11:00 am services for children in Grades JK-6.



Encourage your child to bring their **bible** each week. It is our main study manual!



Parents, we would strongly encourage you to **help your kids make remembering God's Word a priority**. You can do this by working with them to complete all 8 verses throughout this year in FaithLand. Children can recite their **memory work** each week at our Memory Station (Grades 1-6). We will have an awards celebration in May recognizing the children who recite all 8 verses.



Your child will benefit most from **regular attendance!** They will get to know their shepherds, make closer friends and recognize the importance of gathering together to worship God.



At Home Weekly is available on-line. (calvary.on.ca/family) This provides a short devotional which will help prepare your child for the lesson on the coming Sunday.

Homefront Monthly Magazine is available each month on-line or in the stairwell. This is a great resource for practical ways of integrating your faith into all areas of your family's life.



Release Form – If you have a child in Grades 4-6 and would like them to be dismissed on their own, please fill out a Release Form. ****These do NOT have to be filled out each year.****

On-Line Resources



go to: CALVARY.ON.CA/FAMILY

from the right panel select: **RESOURCES**

→ **AT HOME WEEKLY**

A devotion designed to do BEFORE each Sunday to prepare your child

→ **HOMEFRONT MAGAZINE**

On-Line magazine which gives parents encouragement as well as practical ways to keep Jesus at the centre of you home. A hard copy is available in the stairwell.

→ **MEMORY VERSES**

The Memory Station is open every Sunday morning for kids to say their verse. Awards are handed out at the end of the year for everyone who has said every verse.

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church and can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD IS POWERFUL

Ascension

Acts 1—2; Luke 24:52–53

Jesus ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD'S SPIRIT UNIFIES, PART 1

Philip

Acts 8:1–8, 26–40

Philip told an Ethiopian eunuch the good news about Jesus.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- In Acts we read how God's Spirit united many different people to become His family. Acts 8 gives us a specific example of this as we see how God brought an Ethiopian eunuch into the faith community.
- This man wasn't just a Gentile from a distant land; he was also a eunuch—a man who, because of his physical condition, was considered by the Jews to live in a constant state of ritual impurity (Leviticus 21:16–23).
- A prophecy in Isaiah held hope: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me ... to them I will give ... a name better than sons and daughters" (Isaiah 56:4–5). This prophecy spoke of the day when Jesus would fulfill the Law and give everyone the opportunity to join His family.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

One evening, after dinner, bring your family together and read **Acts 8:26–40**. Verse 29 tells us “the Spirit told Philip.” Share with your children that the Holy Spirit also speaks to us in the natural moments of our everyday lives. Ask your children if they’ve ever felt led or nudged by the Holy Spirit. Then share a time in your life when you felt God’s Spirit leading you. Explain to your children that they can ask God to lead them through His Spirit, who unifies us as members of God’s family.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- What did God’s Spirit tell Philip to do, and how did Philip respond?
- How have you seen God’s Spirit bring people together in your faith community?
- What do you enjoy doing with your faith community?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God’s Spirit unifies into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that’s highlighted in next week’s portion of The Big God Story.

So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child’s name), **may you know the unity that comes from God’s Spirit. May you carry God’s message of hope and salvation to the ends of the earth.**

For more information about blessing your child, talk to your ministry leader or see *Spiritual Parenting* by Michelle Anthony.

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WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: JESUS LOVES ME

Children Welcomed

Matthew 19:13–15

When children were brought before Jesus, the disciples turned them away. Jesus welcomed and blessed them.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD FORGIVES

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11–32

A young man leaves home and makes some bad choices. When he returns home, his father welcomes him back with love and forgiveness.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- One of the most effective and memorable teaching techniques of Jesus was the parable. The parable of the prodigal son is the third of three parables in Luke chapter 15. Jesus tells about celebrating lost things found in order to reveal the character of the heavenly Father. He begins with the sheep, then the lost coin, and ends with the lost son.
- Jesus used parables to teach people about the heavenly Father. The Greek word for parable is *parabole*, meaning “a placing beside ... It signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison” (W. E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Vol. 3, p. 158).
- In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the picture Jesus paints of His Father's heart is beautiful, lavishing us with forgiveness because of his love.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

This week, take your family out to the entryway of your home to read this part of The Big God Story. Ask your children to recall a time when they were really excited to see someone coming to visit. Share these memories together. Tell your children you're going to read a true story from the Bible. Then read **Luke 15:11–32**. Ask why the father was so excited to see his son return home. Remind your children that what they heard is part of The Big God Story in the Bible. They'll learn more in church this week about how God loves and forgives us.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- When the son returned home, how did the father react?
- How did the brother react?
- Which one reacted most like the way God would respond? Why?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Made a Promise into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

**As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love.
John 15:9**

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you know God's forgiveness this week. May you run to Him when you need Him and remember He loves you always.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to truministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.