

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 4

For Kids

Spend Time Alone with God!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

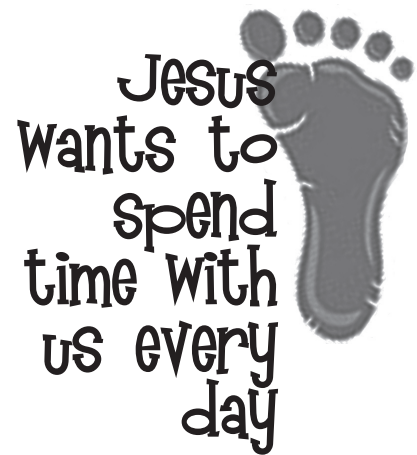
Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us, and that we will go to heaven with Him. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to show Jesus that you appreciate His gift of salvation.

Use the "M.M." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that spending time with God every day is important
- **Feel** the need to have daily Time Alone with God (T.A.G. time)
- **Respond** by planning personal T.A.G. for this coming week



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Show the filled container to the class. Empty it and challenge three volunteers to work as a team to fill the container again. Allow them to put the rocks back in any order they choose. (The rocks will not all fit back into the container unless they place them in order by size with the largest rocks on the bottom.) After they finish, empty the container, and **Say:** This didn't work because __ (names of kids) __ didn't know to put the biggest rocks in first. The biggest rocks are the most important for this activity because if you don't put them in first you won't be able to fit all the rocks back into the container. Invite three volunteers to refill the container. Tell them to shake the container occasionally to help the smaller rocks fill all the spaces. Allow time.

Debrief

Ask: What had to be done to make this activity work? (Put the larger rocks in first; plan and organize; work together.) Which rocks were the most important to making them all fit? (The biggest rocks.)

Say: In our lesson today we will discover one "Big Rock" that needs to be in place in our lives each day.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- 1 clear quart-size container and lid
- Large rocks to fill the container (as large as you can fit into the mouth of the container)
- Medium size rocks
- Small rocks
- Sand (optional)

Ahead

Completely fill the container with the rocks -- larger ones at the bottom.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants to spend time with us every day.

Activity

Have the families read Daniel 6:10-22 by going around the circle and having each person read one verse.

Ask: How do we know that time alone with God (T.A.G.) was important to Daniel? (T.A.G. was a daily habit — he continued to pray even though this put his life in danger.) **Say:** Time with God was a “Big Rock” for Daniel. **Ask:** What did Daniel include in his prayers? (Giving thanks to God and asking God to help him.)

Say: If you really want a friendship with Jesus, spending time with Him has to be an important part of your day. It has to be the “biggest rock” that goes into your jar.

You need

- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verses and be prepared to read them to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called. Allow 2-3 minutes.

Write on the board: Things we can do to make T.A.G. (Time Alone with God) special.

Ask: What does Daniel's story tell us about T.A.G.? (Acknowledge all responses.)

Write on the board: Make T.A.G. a daily habit

- 1** **Read Psalm 42:1, 2.** How did the writer of this verse feel about the time he spent with God? (He had a thirst for time with God.)

Write on the board: Make T.A.G important

- 2** **Read Mark 1:35.** How did Jesus get ready for His day? (Jesus prayed.)

Write on the board: Start each day by talking with God

Ask: Where did Jesus pray? (In a solitary place.)

Write on the board: Find a quiet place to be alone

- 3** **Read John 14:26.** Who should we invite to guide us as we spend time alone with God? (The Holy Spirit.)

Write on the board: Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your Bible study

- 4** **Read John 5:39.** Who should be the focus of T.A.G.? (Jesus.)

Write on the board: Focus on learning more about Jesus

- 5** **Read Hebrews 3: 7, 8 (first part).** What does Jesus want us to do when we spend time alone with Him? (When we hear His voice, do not harden our hearts.)

Write on the board: Open your heart to what Jesus is telling you

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "How can we make T.A.G. special?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a time when your T.A.G. was especially meaningful to you.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



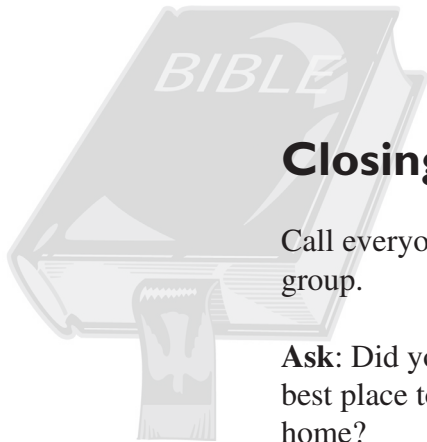
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils
- Smooth rocks
- Fine point permanent markers



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: Did you think of the best time and best place to have T.A.G. this week at home?

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share one T.A.G. experience.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants to spend time with us every day**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for the Bible examples He has given us for spending time with God every day
- asking Jesus to help each person plan T.A.G. this week

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants to spend time with us everyday.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

T.A.G. – Time Alone with God...

1. Make T.A.G. a daily habit.....Daniel 6:10
2. Make T.A.G. the most important part of your day Psalm 42:1, 2
3. Start each day by talking with GodMark 1:35
4. Choose a quiet place where you can be alone.....Mark 1:35
5. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your T.A.G.John 14:26
6. Focus on learning more about Jesus.....John 5:39
7. Open your heart to what Jesus is telling you..... Hebrews 3:7, 8

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time in your life when your time alone with God was especially powerful or meaningful. Were you wrestling with a decision or worried about a problem? Did you praise God in a particularly meaningful way?.
4. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Will you make a choice to spend time alone with God each day? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Prayer:** Form a family circle and ask Jesus to help you spend time alone with Him every day.

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Share** with your child the biggest obstacles you face in finding time to spend with God. How are you seeking God's help in overcoming these?
2. Help your child **plan** a time each day to spend alone with God.

What time of day is best for you?

Where is the best place?

Offer your assistance to facilitate T.A.G. Offer to wake your child up a few minutes earlier or to remove distractions, etc

3. **Activity:** Invite each member of your family to select a rock then write "T.A.G." on their rock. Allow time to complete this activity. **Ask:** Where can you put this rock to help you remember to set aside time to spend with God?
4. Give your child the T.A.G. handout. **Review** it together and encourage him/her to use it as a way of starting to spend daily time alone with God.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share one T.A.G. experience with us.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a time when you were blessed by using your time or talent or treasure for God.

Spend Time Alone with God

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 4

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Romans 12:12

Activity: Create a calendar for the rest of this month and all of next month. Draw one yourself or print it off the computer. Label it T.A.G. and hang it in your quiet place. Each day that you keep your appointment with God write down the Scripture passage you read and draw a happy face in the box for that day.

For Discussion: What do you like best about your T.A.G. time? How do you think Jesus feels if you miss your appointment with Him? How is spending time with Him different from spending time with your other friends?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you remember to keep your daily appointment with Him.

Choice Two

Scripture: Philippians 4:6

Activity: Make a list of things you would like to pray about. Be sure to include both petitions (requests) and thanksgiving (things to thank God for.)

For Discussion: Hannah, a fourth grader, said, “I always pray if I am going to read my Bible. I mostly like to pray and read my Bible in my bedroom and at church. I pray a lot of times when I am not reading my Bible, like one day when I broke my arm, I just prayed. I can pray anytime I want to talk to God.”

Are you more likely to pray during happy times or unhappy times? Why? How is talking with God like talking with a friend or a family member? How is it different?

Prayer Point: Pray for the things on your list. Thank God for always being there for us, any time, any where.

Choice Three

Scripture: Psalm 90:14

Activity: Begin a prayer journal. In a small notebook, write down your prayer requests and the date. As those requests are answered, check them off and write down the date they were answered.

For Discussion: What do you do to remember your special times with your friends and family? What do you do to remember your special times with God? Will your friendship with God grow as strong if you don't spend regular time with Him? Why or why not? How can a prayer journal help you sing for joy and be glad all your days?

Prayer point: Pray for the requests in your prayer journal. Thank God for pouring out His unfailing love on us every morning.

Choice Four

Scripture: Psalm 143:8

Activity: Call one of your friends from your *Footprints* class and ask how T.A.G. time is going. Encourage him or her to spend time alone with God.

For discussion: How does God show you the way you should go? What have you read in your Bible this week that helps you know God's plan for your life?

Prayer Point: Pray for the requests in your prayer journal. Ask God to show you the way you should go.

Choice Five

Scripture: Luke 5:16

Activity: Study the gospels for information on Jesus' prayer habits. Write down anything that shows up more than once.

For discussion: What can you learn from the way Jesus spent time with His Father? Do you think you can have the same kind of relationship with the Father that Jesus had? Why or why not? If yes, what would you need to do to have that kind of relationship? If not, why not?

Prayer Point: Ask God to give you the same desire to spend time with Him that Jesus had.

My World — handout

My T.A.G. — Time Alone with God

Name _____

Date _____

1. Begin your time alone with God by inviting the Holy Spirit to be with you.
2. Use S.O.A.P.
 - **Scripture** – Select a text or passage to read. Write the passage down in a Bible Study Journal or memorize it or use it to make something creative like a bookmark or banner.
 - **Observe** – What’s going on in this text or passage? Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? You won’t be able to answer every question in every passage.
 - **Apply** – Ask yourself: What does Jesus want me to know or to do based upon this text or passage?
 - **Pray** – Pray to Jesus about what you have read in His Word. Ask Him to help you know how to use this passage in your life today.
3. Read through a book of the Bible like the Gospel of Mark. Read a few verses in Chapter 1. As you read, use **S.O.A.P.** Keep track of how many verses you read each time. When you have completed a whole chapter, record your progress by putting a check mark beside the chapter number below or on a calendar.

The Gospel of Mark — Chapter Completed:

Chapter Completed:

____ Chapter 1

____ Chapter 9

____ Chapter 2

____ Chapter 10

____ Chapter 3

____ Chapter 11

____ Chapter 4

____ Chapter 12

____ Chapter 5

____ Chapter 13

____ Chapter 6

____ Chapter 14

____ Chapter 7

____ Chapter 15

____ Chapter 8

____ Chapter 16