

FOOTPRINTS

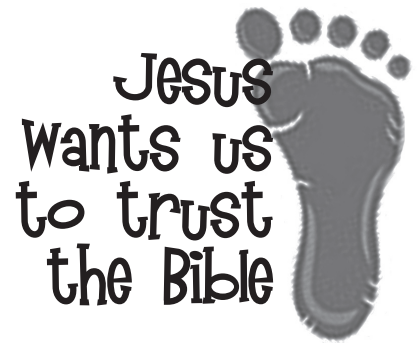
Leader's Guide for LESSON 9

For Kids

Creation, Family and Sabbath

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 each member of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to better understand the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit.

Use the “M.M.” ball or the “T.A.G.” ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that God created the world, the family and the Sabbath as gifts for them
- **Feel** thankful for the gifts God gave at Creation
- **Respond** by placing value on these gifts from God

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



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Divide the class into groups of 5-7 people. Instruct each group to make a “machine” that 1) uses the body of each person 2) moves and 3) has a rest cycle. Allow time to plan and practice then have each group demonstrate their “machine” for the whole class. Invite the whole group to give affirmation to the small group presenting their “machine.”

Debrief

Ask: How well did your machines work? (Acknowledge answers.) Why is it important for machines to have a rest cycle? (So they can work longer.) How would you compare this activity with God’s creation of the world? (Acknowledge answers.)

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



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Creation, the family and the Sabbath
are God's gifts to us.

Activity

Ask a volunteer to be the narrator. Divide the class into seven groups (there can be one individual in a group). Assign each group one of the days of Creation to act out as the narrator reads. Allow 2-3 minutes to plan the action.

Narrator

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was shapeless, empty, dark and wet. And the Holy Spirit floated over the waters. [Pause]

On the first day God said, "Let there be light." And there was light –good light. And the evening and morning marked the first day. [Pause]

On the second day God said, "Let the waters separate — some into oceans and some into the atmosphere." And it was so; and it was good — earth and sky — the second day. [Pause]

On the third day God said, "Let the water of the ocean separate to one place so the dry land appears." And it was so; and it was good — land and seas. And God said, "Let vegetation appear, seed-growing plants and trees of various kinds." And it was so; and it was good — the earth covered with trees, flowers, and every kind of plant — the third day. [Pause]

On the fourth day God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to mark day and night and the various seasons." And it was so; and it was good — two great lights, the sun to make the day and the moon to make the night — along with all the stars — the fourth day. [Pause]

On the fifth day God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fill the sky." And it was so; and it was good — the seas and skies filled with moving creatures. [Pause]

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- One photocopy of the narration

Ahead

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

On the sixth day God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures of all kinds.” And it was so; and it was good. Cats and dogs; lions and bears — every animal imaginable, but not finished yet. So God said, “Let us make people, a first man and a first woman — let them be like us. But this time God didn’t just speak. He formed the man from the earth and the woman from his rib. God blessed them and told them to have children and fill the earth. [Pause]

On the seventh day God had finished His work of creating a new world; so He rested. And God blessed the Sabbath day and made it special because on the seventh day He had rested from his work of creating a new world.

Debrief

Say: God made a lot of things for you and me at Creation, but these things can be summed up as just three kinds of gifts.

Ask: Can you think what they are? (Acknowledge answers.)

Write on the board: (Leave space under each one to write the points as you go through the study.)

The gift of creation
The gift of the family
The gift of the Sabbath.

Bible Discovery

Say: Let's fill in the first section of our list by using our narrative story which is found in Genesis 1 and 2.

1 Ask: How did our world begin and how long did it take? (God made our world in six days.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of creation"): God created the world in six days.

Ask: What did things look like before God began His work of creating? (The earth was dark and empty.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of creation"): The earth was dark and empty

Ask: What does the Bible say God did to create things like light and birds?
(God spoke to create.)

Ask: What did God do differently when He created people? (God formed people with His own hands and breathed life into them.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of creation"): God created the world by speaking and by forming with His own hands

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on

2 Read Genesis 2:18. Why did God create the family? (God knew it was not good for people to be alone; He made people social – wanting to be with others.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of family"): People need people

3 Read Genesis 1:28. What does "be fruitful and increase in number" mean? (Have children.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of family"): God wants families to have children

4 Read Genesis 2:24. What three instructions did God give for establishing marriage? (Leave father and mother, be united to spouse, become one.) God's plan is for marriage to last a lifetime!

Write on the board (under "The gift of family"): Marriage means leaving parents and becoming one with your spouse

5 Read Genesis 2:2, 3. What three things did God do on the seventh day to make it different from other days? (Rested, blessed it, made it holy.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of Sabbath"): God rested, blessed the Sabbath and made it a holy day

6 Read Exodus 20:8-11. What word did God use to show the importance of the Sabbath? (Remember.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): Remember the Sabbath day

What guideline has God given for making Sabbath a special day? (Don’t do your regular kind of work on Sabbath.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): Do not work

7 Read Isaiah 58:13, 14. What guideline has God given us in this Scripture for making the Sabbath a special day? (Call it a delight; honor it; don’t do as you please.)

Say: This means that on Sabbath we don’t do our “own thing” but focus on God

What does God want the Sabbath to be for us? (Delight.) What do you think “delight” means? (Something we really enjoy.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): Make the Sabbath a special day

8 Read Isaiah 66:22, 23. This passage describes a time when God will make a new heaven and a new earth. What will all people do on each Sabbath? (Come before God to worship Him.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): We will celebrate Sabbath in the new earth

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, “Tell me about God’s gift of creation... His gift of family... His gift of Sabbath.”
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: Jesus has given us special gifts. It's a wonderful thing to know that you were created in the image of a loving God. Family is a precious gift that Jesus intended to last a lifetime. The Sabbath is a beneficial gift Jesus has given not only for your physical health, but also as a special day to connect with Him and with family and friends. Jesus wants us to value these gifts – to make them important in our lives.

You need

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

Leader Share briefly an experience that helped you value creation or your family or the Sabbath. Share how you feel about these special gifts that God has given you.

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

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



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say: When Jesus created our world, He was so happy to present it as a gift to Adam and Eve our first parents. He wants us to enjoy nature. Jesus also wants us to enjoy our families and the Sabbath.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you think of something specific you can do this week to show Jesus that you appreciate the gifts He has given of creation, family or Sabbath?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did this coming week to show Jesus that you appreciate these special gifts He has given you.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Creation, our family and the Sabbath are God's gifts to us.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking God for His gifts of creation, our families and the Sabbath
- asking God to help us value these gifts

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: **Creation, our family and the Sabbath are God’s gifts to us.**
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.

1. The gift of creation

God created the world in six days Genesis 1

The earth was dark and emptyGenesis 1:2

God used two methods to create:

speaking and forming with His handsGenesis 1:7

Psalm 33:6, 9

2. The gift of family

God created family because people

are social and need other peopleGenesis 2:18

God wants families to have children.....Genesis 1:28

Marriage is God's plan – two people leave their

parents, are united to each other and become oneGenesis 2:24

3. The gift of the Sabbath

God rested from His work of creating on the Sabbath,

blessed the seventh day and made it holyGenesis 2:2, 3

God asked us to remember the Sabbath Exodus 20:8-11

God commanded us to not work on the Sabbath Exodus 20:10

God wants the Sabbath to be a very special day Isaiah 58:13

We will celebrate the Sabbath in the new earth.....Isaiah 66:22, 23

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly 1) why you think it is important to take care of our natural world, 2) an experience you have had with your family that was meaningful and memorable, 3) a time when the Sabbath was a special delight to you. Explain why you value these gifts God has given to you.
4. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Would you like to show Jesus that you appreciate His gifts of creation, family and Sabbath? 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. **Pray:** Form a family prayer circle and thank Jesus for the gifts of creation, family, and Sabbath. Ask Him to help you value each of these important in your home.

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

My World

1. **Ask:** Are there specific things we can do as a family to place more value on God's gifts to us? **Brainstorm** for ideas in each area

Value our natural world:

Value each person in our family:

Value family time:

Make Sabbath a very special day:

2. **Ask:** Which of these areas do you think our family needs to work on the most? Which area do you think you need to work on as an individual?
3. Parents/mentors **Share** one specific thing that you will do this coming week to show Jesus that you appreciate creation or your family or the Sabbath. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus wants you to do to show you appreciate His gifts?
4. **Pray** as a family circle thanking God for His gifts of our world, your family and the Sabbath. Ask God to help you with the specific things you have chosen to do.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did this coming week to show Jesus that you appreciate these special gifts He has given you.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience you have had in honoring God's law and the difference His law has made in your life.

Creation, Family and Sabbath

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 9

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: Psalm 8

Activity: Based on today's Scripture reading, make a list of three things for which you specifically want to praise God.

For Discussion: A sixth-grader named Hannah said, "I like walking in nature because I can explore God's beautiful creation. One Sabbath my family and I went to Lula Lake. We went down to the bottom of a waterfall, and that was neat because I had never seen one. Next we hiked up to a bluff where we could see everything at a distance, and that reminded me of God's creation and how big the world is!"

Share with your family some of your special memories of being out in nature.

Prayer Point: Praise God for His glorious creation. Compare yourself to His amazing power and ask God if there is anything you need to confess.

Choice Two

Scripture: Mark 2:23-28

Activity: Decorate a monthly calendar to honor God. Decorate the Saturday column in a special way and write in the word *Sabbath*. In those spaces write in something you will do each Sabbath to make the day special.

For Discussion: What did Jesus mean when He said "Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?" Why did the way Jesus celebrated Sabbath conflict with what the religious rulers taught?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the awesome gift of the Sabbath. Ask Him to help you celebrate the day in a way that brings honor and glory to Him.

Choice Three

Scripture: Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:11

Activity: Compare these two passages of scripture. Make a list of the similarities and the differences. Write all the verbs in your fanciest handwriting. Look up "bless" and "holy" in the dictionary.

For Discussion: What do you notice? What do we acknowledge when we celebrate the Sabbath? Why is that important?

Prayer Point: Ask God to show you an opportunity to use the Sabbath to do good.

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Mentoring Moments: Lesson Nine - I

Choice Four

Scripture: Matthew 12:9-13

Activity: Plan an activity for next Sabbath that fits with Jesus' instruction to do good on the Sabbath.

For discussion: What is the difference between doing good on the Sabbath and working on the Sabbath? Does your family spend more time resting on Sabbath or doing good? Why do you think that is?

Prayer Point: Ask God to show you an opportunity to use the Sabbath to do good.

Choice Five

Scripture: Psalm 127:3-5

Activity: Draw a picture of your family, using the quiver and arrow metaphor David used in Psalm 127.

For discussion: Do you think of yourself as a reward from God? How does that make you feel about yourself? Why do you think David compared children to arrows? How do you feel about the idea of growing up, getting married and having children of your own?

Prayer Point: Tell Jesus how you feel about being called a reward from Him. Do you live your life as if you were a reward from God? Is there anything you need to confess to Him?

Choice Six

Scripture: Genesis 2:24

Activity: Make a list of seven married couples you know. Write their names on seven consecutive days on a calendar.

For discussion: Why did God give couples the instructions He did in Genesis 2? Do you see them as a gift or as restrictions? Why?

Prayer Point: Each day, pray for one of the couples whose names you have written on the calendar. Ask God to help them to love each other the way He intended and to keep their marriage healthy and happy.