

VICTORY AT HOME

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER



Mom, Dad...Who is God?

Are you prepared to answer the most significant question ever asked... by your 5-year-old? "Who is God?" Do you feel equipped to give an account for your faith and the historical backing that supports the biblical account? Think about who God is to you. How would you describe Him? The Bible is filled with titles, names, adjectives, and depictions that reveal God's nature and history in the earth and beyond. Leaders, kings, disciples, fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters all had a part in the retelling of the biblical account of how their lives were changed when revelation came. God is Love, Our Peace, The Rock, King over all Creation, Our Father, Alpha/Omega and Savior. God is just, faithful, righteous, and merciful. He heals, restores, forgives, provides, and strengthens. So, how does your child describe who God is to them? Hopefully, as they grow up in our homes and experience a world view through a healed and whole lens, their understanding of who God is becomes a part of their personal story. We as parents possess the primary Christian voice in the life of our children. That means the way we talk about God, worship Him, and walk out our faith all have an impact on the faith development process in our children.

The home is at the center of spiritual development, and it is the responsibility of the parent to teach God's truths with consistent intent like we're building a foundation that can't be swept away. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). Ultimately, kids will forge their own faith path, but being the faith leader in the home, you have a window of opportunities to educate, minister to, and influence their spiritual development! But it doesn't stop there. Parents, we also need to protect our kids' faith in the secular world by equipping them with the understanding of apologetics and standing on God's Word.



The definition of apologetics is the study and practice of giving answers for the reasonableness and truth of the Christian faith. The word comes from the Greek apologia and means, "to give a defense." In 1 Peter 3:15 Christians are commanded to give an apologia to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. We do this by equipping kids with an understanding of apologetics and how to defend a faith that is grounded in reason, history and science. Being able to confidently handle moments when their faith is challenged is important, plus we have the hope of winning some to Christ. The joy in searching out the fascinating and fantastic facts about God's creation is incredibly exciting, stirring up the imaginations of your children to dream big. God is ready to answer some tough questions this generation may throw at us, are we?

To do this, you must start with deepening our own understanding, so that you are ready to answer your kids' tough questions. Become mature in the Word of God so that you can train up Godly children with the correct worldview. It's also healthy to ask your kids big questions to help them wrestle with their own thought process. "Is God's Word true?", "Why do people speak different languages?" "What about Dinosaurs?", "Why do we have different skin colors?", "Did the flood really happen?", "Why do bad things happen?". You may not have all the answers at first, but committing to a life of study will help prepare for the conversations that lead to discovering the truths of your faith as a family. Turn to the Bible for answers & resources such as www.answersingenesis.org to aid in your understanding and knowledge of God and His Word.



Parents, **be encouraged!** You've got this with God's help! What an opportunity and blessing to be given the authority to pass the faith and equip the younger generations to defend it against "the fiery darts of the wicked one" (Ephesians 6:16), which will, in turn, advance the Kingdom of God! Do everything in your power to be intentional with the time you have with your children by seizing opportunities help them stand firm with confidence. Stay prayed up, educated, and aware of the world your children are growing up in. Don't lose hope during difficult and trying times for your family. Remember that every seed you sow into the spiritual development of your child is worthwhile. The ultimate hope is that your child is secure and confident in knowing who God is and can respond without falter to those that challenge their faith when asked the question, "Who is God?"



GOD IS AWESOME!

PRESCHOOL

WEEK 1

A SON LEAVES HOME - LUKE 15:11-16

READ Luke 15:11-16 Today we learned about a father who loved his son, even though his son made some bad choices.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Play cause and effect games with your child. It is easy to see the consequences of actions through play. Build a block tower together. Ask your child questions for thought. **What will happen if I move the block on the bottom? Will the tower stay up or will it fall down? What will happen if I drop a block on top of the tower?** Relate these lessons to their lives. **What happens when we disobey?** We get in trouble and suffer the consequences. **What happens when we obey?** We don't get in trouble and don't get punished. Remind your child God Is Awesome and always loves us!

Pray: God, thank You for loving us even when we don't make good choices. Thank You for being an awesome God. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

WEEK 2

THE SON DECIDES TO RETURN HOME - LUKE 15:17-20

READ Luke 15:17-20 We are learning that God Is Awesome! Today we learned that the son who made bad choices decided he wanted to go home and ask his father for forgiveness.

EXPLORE TOGETHER Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-6,13 in an easy-to understand version with your child. Talk to your child about the verses, emphasizing what love is and love is not. You could also ask your child to give you a thumbs-up (love is) or a thumbs-down (love is not) when you say a phrase from the verses. Assure your child God always loves us, and remind him or her that we should love others too. Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for His love and asking Him to help each of you to love others.

Pray: God, thank You for always loving us. Thank you for helping us even when we make bad choices. Thank You for being an awesome God! We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

WEEK 3

THE FATHER FORGIVES HIS SON - LUKE 15:20-24

READ Luke 15:20-24 All month long we have talked about how God Is Awesome! Today we learned the father was excited his son had come home and the father forgave his son.

EXPLORE TOGETHER What does it mean to forgive someone? Is it always easy to forgive others? Why should we forgive other people? Read Ephesians 4:32b to your child. The Bible tells us we should forgive others. When someone says they are sorry we should forgive that person. Write on slips of paper different scenarios where your child may have to choose to forgive someone. Some examples may include: a friend accidentally knocked you down, someone broke your toy, you were playing with a friend and they accidentally got hurt, someone took the toy you were playing with, etc. Think about situations in your home where you have had to forgive your child or vice versa. Practice saying, "I forgive you (or add a name)."

Pray: God, thank You for forgiving us! You are an awesome and loving God. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

WEEK 4

GOD IS AWESOME - LUKE 15:25-32

READ Luke 15:25-32 Today we learned that God Is Awesome! God is not only awesome, but He is loving and forgiving too!

EXPLORE TOGETHER During dinner one night this week, spend some time discussing superheroes and their awesome qualities and powers. Emphasize to your child God is even more awesome than his or her favorite superhero. Talk about how we show God to others when we love and forgive them. Review God's character traits (Fruit of the Spirit) with your child and share a few of His miracles with him or her as well. Your child may even be able to share what he or she knows about God. Close your family time in prayer, thanking God for His awesome love and forgiveness.

Pray: God, thank You for forgiving us. Thank You for being an awesome, loving God. Help us to be more like You. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen!

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

ELEMENTARY

HOW CAN I KNOW GOD EXISTS? - GENESIS 1:1, PSALM 148, 19:1

WEEK 1

Read: Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 148; Romans 2:12-15; Hebrews 10:16. This week in VicKids your student learned God is real because of His creations, our sense of morality, and through His Son, Jesus. He or she learned that by believing God is real should change what how we think and act. Students were encouraged to live their lives so others can see their belief that God is real!

Explore Together: Some people continually try to prove that God is not real. As Christians, we can have confidence that we believe in a God who is real. Besides the evidence in Scripture, all we have to do is go outside to see that God exists. Take a walk or a bike ride with your family, either down your street or at a local park. Point out all of God's creation, like the trees, clouds and any animals you see. Explain to your child that all of creation points to our Creator. Everyone and everything you point out will have such detail in its creation that evidence of an Intelligent "Designer" is overwhelming!

Pray: Lord I thank you for that all life offers evidence of the existence of a personal God, who has made Himself known to us through His creation. I pray with my family and we thank you, God, for the continuous ways you declare your existence all around us. In Jesus name, Amen.

WHY IS EVERY LIFE VALUABLE? - JEREMIAH 1:5, PSALM 139:13-16

WEEK 2

Read: Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 9:5-6; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16. This week in VicKids your student learned that every person is valuable because he or she is created in God's image. We are intelligent and moral. We have abilities. We are giving and through Jesus we are eternal. Your student learned every life is valuable to God and was challenged to treat others in ways to show they are valuable to him or her and to God.

Explore Together: The Bible says that Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. Every human being is an image bearer of Christ. To explain what this means to your child, have them take a silly selfie on your phone. Show them the picture and ask if the picture is them. Tell them that the picture isn't them because it is just an image of them. It can show someone what your child looks like and a little bit about them. As image bearers of Christ, we are not God, but we can show people what He looks like and a little bit about Him. Since everyone bears the image of God, everyone has value.

Pray: God we thank you so that every human being is an image bearer of you, our Creator and therefore, every human being has purpose. My family and I pray that we will be able to see the value and purpose in all people, and that You will help us live out your purpose for our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY UNIQUE? - 1 CORINTHIANS 15

WEEK 3

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-19; Mark 1:14-20; John 21:25; Matthew 8:23-27; Romans 3:21-26 This week in VicKids your student learned Christianity is unique because it is historically accurate and true, offers eternal life, is seen in miracles, and is based on grace. The Bible gives us evidence of its uniqueness. We can use God's Word to defend our faith.

Explore Together: Our world is full of different religions and systems of belief, so how do we know that Christianity is the only one that is true? Christianity is unique because the life of Jesus can be historically proven. The gospel is Good News, not just good advice we are giving to people. Find a newspaper in print or online to look at with your children. Point out the differences in the news articles and the advice columns. The articles are full of facts that can be proven, and the advice columns are full of feelings and reactions. It is much easier to believe in something that can be proven than an opinion or feeling. Ask your family which of those are they more likely to trust and why.

Pray: Father we thank you that your grace enables us to be humble and thankful, not proud. My family and I pray that we will recognize that it is only by your grace that and the sacrifice of Jesus that we receive salvation. In Jesus name, Amen.

WHY IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY? - JOHN 14:6, ROMANS 3:10-26

WEEK 4

Read: John 14:6; John 8:24; Romans 3:10-26; Galatians 2:16. Today in VicKids your student learned that Jesus is the only way to have eternal life in Heaven. He or she learned Jesus was God's plan for forgiveness of every person's sin. We are to look for opportunities to tell others about Jesus and that He is the only way to Heaven.

Explore Together: Everywhere you look there will be someone doing things differently than you. They will tell you that their way is the right way and your way is the wrong way. In today's culture, everyone can have his or her own version of the truth. Read a book to your child or have your child read a book, but start from the end of the book. Tell your child that there is only one way to read a book in English: from left to right and from beginning to end. In the same way, there is only one way to get into Heaven: through Jesus. The salvation that Jesus offers is available to anyone who is willing to accept His way.

Pray: God we thank you that the Bible teaches that humanity is in desperate need of salvation. I pray with my family and thank Jesus for dying on the cross for us. We pray that our family will recognize that the rest of humanity deserves salvation and we look for opportunities to share this message with others. In Jesus name, Amen.

PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

resources for staying sharp with trends

When your child says "Can I have an TikTok account?" do you know what that means for them and for you as a family? Do you know what "Momo" means when your youngster says they want to do the "challenge" through "WhatsApp"? Here are a list of resources that will help you stay on top of your game when it comes to those questions.

Parents' Ultimate Guide to TikTok - This App is DANGEROUS for YOUR KIDS

www.commonsemmedia.org/app-reviews/musically-your-video-social-network
<https://thecybersafetylady.com.au/2019/02/is-tiktok-safe-for-kids/>

Momo - What You Need to Know - Visual Discretion Advised

www.netsanity.net/momo-what-parents-need-to-know/

Snapchat 101

www.parenttoolkit.comsearch?qt=snapchat

Digital Connections - Online Parenting Groups and Chats

www.commonsenseconnect.com

Campus Calendar

NORCROSS

- 05/01 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation - 7:00pm
Lower Level Connector
- 05/04 - Victory at Home Parent Child Dedication
Workshop - 5:30pm Lower Level Connector
- 05/04-05 - Outdoor Water Baptism
- 05/11 - Victory at Home Parent Child Dedication
Celebration Service - 10am - The Chapel
- 05/19 - VicKids Volunteer Orientation - 1:15pm
Lower Level Connector

HAMILTON MILL

- 05/05 - Outdoor Water Baptism
- 05/05 - Victory at Home - 1:00pm Classroom B
Parent Child Dedication Workshop
- 05/12 - Victory at Home
Parent Child Dedication In-Service Ceremony

MIDTOWN

- 05/05 - Outdoor Water Baptism!



"Children are not casual guests in our home. They have been loaned to us temporarily for the purpose of loving them and instilling a foundation of values on which their future lives will be built."

Dr. James Dobson

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

1 PETER 3:15 NLT

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Additional Resources

victoryatl.com/athomenewsletter/