

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 1

CONNECTION

POINT: Even at our worst, Christ was fully committed to love and bring us to God.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: A wedding won't take place if only one of the persons is committed to the relationship. Who would want to marry someone who doesn't love him or her in return? That's not the case when we consider a commitment to Christ. History records no greater act of commitment than when Jesus Christ loved us and willingly took our punishment and death as His own. Because of His great love for us, we're drawn to love and commit ourselves to Him.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Live It Out: Review the Bible story and talk about ways to show love to others. Say that one way to show love is to be kind. Practice being kind to people you meet in your community.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He collected money that the people owed to the town. People did not like Zacchaeus because he was a tax collector.

Zacchaeus could not see over the crowd. He climbed a tree so he could see Jesus.

Jesus stopped under the tree. He said, "Come down, Zacchaeus. I want to go to your house today!" Zacchaeus climbed down the tree. He was happy that Jesus was going to his house.

Jesus taught Zacchaeus many things. Zacchaeus was sorry for the wrong things he had done. He said, "I will help the poor people. If I have taken too much money from people, I will give them back all of their money and more."

Zacchaeus knew Jesus loved him and wanted him to do right things.

KIDS

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

Live It Out: Encourage your child to find someone he knows who has few friends. Remind him that God can help him show love to someone he and others might find difficult to love.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in Jericho. The people did not like tax collectors because they took so much money and made themselves rich.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he couldn't. He could not see over the crowd. He climbed up a tree so he could watch Jesus pass by.

Jesus stopped and said, "Zacchaeus, come down! I need to stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus quickly came down and welcomed Jesus. People in the crowd complained, saying, "Jesus is going to stay with a sinful man!"

Zacchaeus said to Jesus, "I will give half of everything I own to the poor. If I have taken money unfairly from anyone, I will pay back four times as much!"

Jesus said, "Salvation has come here today. I have come to save people who need God."

STUDENTS

Scripture: Romans 5:6-12, 18-21

- How did you come to recognize your need for Christ?
- How would you explain reconciliation to God to an unbeliever?
- How are we made righteous?

Live It Out: From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins, and it was necessary that He would be crucified and raised. Even though we've rebelled against God and refused to live in ways that honor Him, Jesus loved us enough to die. Jesus' nature was demonstrated most clearly through His death on the cross.

Share with your student the story of how someone sacrificed something for you. Consider ways you and your student can live sacrificially for someone in your lives this week.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 2

CONNECTION POINT:

Commit your whole life in trust and obedience to Christ.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Commitment is a big step in almost all areas. To commit yourself to one thing means denying yourself something else. Jesus Himself acknowledged this when He urged us to “count the cost” (Luke 14:28-33). Such a commitment is a marked distinction between those who say they follow Christ and those who actually do. While many people can’t get past the great sacrifice and commitment this calls for, true disciples embrace commitment to Christ out of love and gratitude for His redemption reconciliation, and gift of life.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Practice saying the Weekly Bible Verse together: “Jesus said, ‘You should do as I have done for you.’ John 13:15.”

Everywhere Jesus went, people followed Him. One day some mothers and fathers brought their children to see Jesus. The mothers and fathers wanted their children to see Jesus and hear His kind words.

Some of Jesus’ helpers saw the mothers, fathers, and children trying to get near Jesus. Jesus’ helpers told the mothers and fathers that Jesus was too busy to see children.

Jesus saw what His helpers were doing. He became angry. Jesus said to His helpers, “Let the children come to Me. Do not send them away. God loves children. They are a part of God’s special plan. Everyone should love God like the children love Him.”

Jesus took the children in His arms. He gently put His hands on them and talked to them. Jesus showed His helpers that He loved children.

KIDS

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Say that Jesus knows every person is valuable. Help your child pray for people she know. Ask God to remind her that each person is valuable to Him.

Some people brought their little children to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to place His hands on the children and pray for them. When the disciples saw the parents and children trying to get to Jesus, they tried to stop them. They kept them and the children away from Jesus.

Then Jesus saw what was happening. He was very unhappy with His disciples. He said, “Let the children come to Me. Don’t stop them. God’s kingdom belongs to those who come as a child comes. Truly I tell you this, whoever does not receive God’s kingdom like a little child will never enter His kingdom.”

Then Jesus took the children in His arms. He put His hands on the children and blessed them. Jesus showed how much He loved the children.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Mark 10:13-22

- Why are most children trusting by nature?
- Why are so many people tempted to believe that being a good person will get us into heaven?
- How would you describe a life fully committed to Jesus?

Live It Out: Our response to God’s love is to remain pure in all aspects of life—with our bodies, thoughts, attitudes, actions, and speech—and He empowers us to obey His commands as we live by the Spirit. We aren’t saved by obedience. Rather, we are made right with God by the sacrifice of Christ. Our obedience, then, is an expression of the change God has made in our hearts.

How does your life demonstrate that you are all-in committed to Christ? How are you all-in committed to the church? Discuss these questions with your student and challenge each other to stay committed to Christ.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 3

CONNECTION POINT:

God's Word gives trustworthy guidance for all of life.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Manuals, how-to books, and online videos abound to teach us any number of techniques and skills. When it comes to what really matters—living life—only one source will give us all we truly need: God's Word. The Bible gives us the answers we need for the moment. As we read His instruction, God will also guide us to understand His Word.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Genesis 13

Live It Out: Talk about Abram's solution for getting along in the Bible story. When your children get into a disagreement, encourage them to decide on a way to solve the problem.

Abram had helpers to take care of his many animals. Abram was Lot's uncle. Lot had many animals, too. Lot also had helpers to care for his animals.

Abram and Lot's helpers were arguing. The animals did not have enough grass and water.

Abram knew it was wrong for his helpers and Lot's helpers to be arguing. Abram knew that God wants families to work together.

Abram told Lot to choose the land where he wanted to live. Abram said that he would take the other land. This way they would both have plenty of grass for their animals.

Lot chose the grassy land by the river. He moved his family, helpers, and animals to the land next to the river. Abram took his family, helpers, and animals and moved to another part of the land.

KIDS

Scripture: Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Note each of the points Paul made about God's plan for families. Discuss how your family can follow God's plan and work together to honor God.

Paul called for wives to respect their husbands like they respect God. He told wives to follow their husband's leading just as the church follows God.

Paul told husbands to love their wives like Jesus loves the church. Husbands should consider what is good for their wives. Paul told husbands to love their wives as much as they love themselves. Paul explained that husbands and wives are to care for each other. The husband's job is to love his wife with a Christ-like love.

Paul wrote about children. He reminded them that Ten Commandments that taught children to honor their parents so they would have a long life.

Paul's message for fathers is that they should not make their children angry. Fathers should train their children to live as God instructed in the Bible.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Psalm 119:1-11

- How has God's Word provided guidance for you?
- What are the characteristics of a person devoted to knowing God and keeping His Word?
- How does God's Word keep us from sin?

Live It Out: Relationships are built on communication, and the primary way God chooses to communicate with us is through His Word. The Bible is God's Truth. It is internally consistent, without error, totally trustworthy, and will last forever.

How do you study the Bible? Discuss your Bible reading and study habits with your student. Consider that the best way to show your student that Bible reading is important is for him or her to see you making time to read the Bible. Challenge yourself and your student to memorize Psalm 119:1 this week.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 4

CONNECTION POINT:

Commitment to Christ includes a commitment to His body, the church.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Culture applauds the “self-made person,” that individual who, with little more than grit and determination, overcame obstacles to become the top in his or her field. The reality is no one succeeds without the help and support of others. Unfortunately, the “self-made person” idea is embraced by some Christians. “I’ve got Jesus and I don’t need anything else.” One of the blessings Christ give us is a family—His body, the church. We need the support of other believers, and they need ours.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Exodus 1:8–2:10

Live It Out: Review how Moses’ family protected him. Say the Weekly Bible Verse together: “Take care of your family. 1 Timothy 5:4.” Pray, thanking God for your family.

A baby boy was born into a family. The king did not want baby boys to live. The family hid the baby for three months. To keep the baby safe, the mother covered a basket with sticky tar to keep the basket dry. The mother laid the baby in the basket and placed it in the tall grass near the edge of the river. The baby’s sister stayed nearby to watch.

When the king’s daughter came to the river, she saw the basket and the baby. His sister asked the king’s daughter, “Do you need someone to care for the baby?”

“Yes,” said the king’s daughter.

The sister brought her mother. She was happy to take care of her baby. When the boy was older, he went to live with the king’s daughter. The king’s daughter named him Moses.

KIDS

Scripture: Exodus 1:8–2:10

Live It Out: Review how Moses’ mother protected him. Help your child think about ways adult family members protect him. Help him think of ways he can care for younger siblings.

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, ordered the newborn Hebrew baby boys to be killed.

One family hid their baby boy for three months. To keep the baby safe, the mother coated a basket with tar. She put the baby in the basket and set it among the reeds beside the river. The baby’s sister, Miriam, watched him.

Pharaoh’s daughter came to the river and saw the basket. She told her maid to bring her the basket. Pharaoh’s daughter saw the baby and felt sorry for him.

Miriam hurried to her. “Should I find a Hebrew woman to care for the baby for you?” she asked. Pharaoh’s daughter agreed.

Miriam brought her mother. Pharaoh’s daughter told his mother to care for the baby and bring him to her when he was older. Pharaoh’s daughter named the boy Moses.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Romans 12:3–16

- How do we benefit by being a part of the church?
- What obstacles often prevent us from using our gifts as God intended?
- How does genuine Christian love differ from the world’s idea of love?

Live It Out: In Romans 12, Paul listed several ways we’re to relate to others. One, specifically, is sharing in others’ experiences—celebrating successes and grieving difficulties. The church is a community of believers who are called to meet together regularly to study Scripture, pray, worship, serve and encourage one another, and proclaim the gospel to the world.

With your student, consider who in your church or community is in need of celebrating. Make plans to celebrate that person in a way that makes him or her feel loved and valued. Who in your church or community is grieving or facing a difficult situation? Consider ways you can help ease the hurt and heavy burdens of this friend and neighbor.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 5

CONNECTION POINT:

Commit to pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of others.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Spiritual gifts abound in the church. Believers are gifted in different ways and are called to exercise their gifts in different ways; one ministry we can share in is praying for each other. It's natural, easy, and appropriate to go to God with our own personal needs, but we are also called to intercede for the needs of others. Furthermore, a commitment to pray for others brings the joy of seeing how God answers and works in others' lives.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Ruth 1–4

Live It Out: After reviewing the Bible story, explain that God wants family members to love and help one another. Help your child think of ways she can be helpful in your family.

Naomi was sad when her husband and sons died. She decided to return to her hometown. She told her son's wife, Ruth, to go home to her own family. Ruth loved Naomi and stayed with her.

Ruth and Naomi went to Bethlehem. To provide food, Ruth went into the fields to gather grain. She walked behind the workers and picked up any grain they left on the ground.

Ruth was in a field that belonged to Boaz, a relative of Naomi. Boaz saw her and made sure she had plenty of grain. Boaz knew Ruth was kind and helpful to Naomi.

Later, Boaz and Ruth were married. Ruth had a baby boy. Boaz and Ruth named the baby Obed. Naomi helped to take care of the baby. Ruth, Boaz, Obed, and Naomi were a happy family.

KIDS

Scripture: Ruth 1–4

Live It Out: Review the story of Ruth and how she helped her family. Help your child decide how to do something that shows God's love for a family member.

Naomi's husband and sons died. She decided to move back to Bethlehem. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Orpah went home, but Ruth stayed with Naomi.

In Bethlehem, Ruth went to the barley fields to pick up leftover grain in the fields. Ruth worked in a field belonging to Boaz, a relative of Naomi. Boaz told Ruth to stay in his field and keep close to his workers. He shared his food with Ruth. Ruth saved some of her food for Naomi. Boaz told his workers to leave behind extra grain for Ruth.

When Ruth told Naomi about Boaz, Naomi knew Boaz would take care of them.

Later, Boaz and Ruth married. Ruth had a baby boy named Obed. Boaz, Ruth, Obed, and Naomi were a happy family. Obed was the grandfather of King David.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Colossians 1:3-12

- When have you been encouraged by the prayers of others?
- How can we be intentional about following through when we say, "I'll pray for you"?
- How does praying regularly and specifically contribute to our spiritual growth?

Live It Out: Jesus sits at God's right hand and continually intercedes for believers as our advocate, mediator, and high priest. Because Jesus longed to live in close relationship with the Father, He prayed continually while He was on the earth. If we want to have a close relationship with Christ, we must do the same.

Discuss prayer life with your student. If he or she indicates that it is not as committed as they would like, consider some different techniques you can use to build up your prayer muscles. A few examples include breath prayers, prayer journaling, memorizing Scripture, or simply setting an alarm as a reminder.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 6

CONNECTION POINT:

God deserves our worship and praise.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: Every November, we set aside a day to be thankful for all the good things in our lives. With this focus on the things God has brought into our lives should come a focus on the One who provides those good things. Our focus shifts from what God does to who God is. Behind every good gift God provides is the God of infinite goodness and love, and for that we should praise Him.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Live It Out: Review the Bible story. Help your child to watercolor on a heart shape. Comment that we can show love for Jesus. Name ways your family shows love for Jesus.

Jesus and His disciples were traveling. They came to the town where two sisters lived. The sisters were named Mary and Martha.

The sisters were happy to see Jesus. Martha invited Jesus and His disciples into her home.

Mary sat on the floor near Jesus. She listened carefully as Jesus talked. Mary wanted to hear everything Jesus said. While Mary was listening, Martha was busy working in the house to get things ready for Jesus and His helpers.

Martha walked over to Jesus and said, "Jesus, I'm doing all the work by myself. Don't You think Mary should be helping me? Tell Mary to help me."

Jesus said, "Martha, Mary is listening to Me, and that is very important."

Jesus loved His friends Martha and Mary. They loved Jesus, too.

KIDS

Scripture: John 11:1-44

Live It Out: If your child has not made the decision to follow Christ, share with her the plan of salvation. Explain that she must make the decision on her own to become a Christian.

Lazarus was sick. His sisters Mary and Martha sent to another town for Jesus to help him.

Jesus waited two days before He left to see Lazarus. Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep. I am going to wake him." Jesus meant that Lazarus had died.

When Jesus arrived, Martha met Jesus outside the house. She said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus explained that Lazarus would live again. Jesus explained that He is the resurrection and life. He said that anyone who believed in Him would have eternal life.

Jesus asked to see where Lazarus was buried. Jesus cried. Jesus ordered the stone removed. Jesus prayed aloud. He said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus came out wrapped with cloth strips. Lazarus was alive!

STUDENTS

Scripture: Psalm 99:1-9

- How has God revealed His power in your life in ways that caused you to worship Him?
- How is God calling you to work toward making right the wrongs you see around you?
- What are some answers to prayer that have moved you to praise God?

Live It Out: A healthy relationship with Jesus requires our understanding that He reigns, and that He is rightfully the Lord of our lives. When we live in submission to Him, He is glorified. Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship, service, and sacrifice.

How do you and your family demonstrate that Jesus is Lord in your lives? One great way is by attending church each week and worshiping with your church family. Also consider anything in your lives that you need to change in order to live in submission to Christ and take action now.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

QUARTER

Unit 2, Session 7

CONNECTION POINT:

God desires for all people to hear and respond to the gospel.

THE BIBLE MEETS

LIFE: The gospel of Jesus Christ changes lives. But many in our world have never heard the gospel message. Believers must use every opportunity and every means available to tell the good news about Jesus. God's heart and mission is that all people everywhere know Him, and our God-given mission is no less.

LIVE IT OUT: Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out.

FAMILY CONNECTION

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

PRESCHOOL

Scripture: Acts 18:1-3,18-28

Live It Out: Give your child a paper strip printed with the Weekly Bible Verse, or let her print it. Read the words from the Bible and encourage her to decorate the marker for her Bible.

Paul traveled to tell about Jesus. Paul met a man named Aquila and his wife, Priscilla, in Corinth. Aquila and Priscilla loved Jesus and wanted to learn more about Him. They invited Paul to stay at their house.

Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla to make tents. Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla became good friends.

Aquila and Priscilla went with Paul to another city to tell people about Jesus. Aquila and Priscilla met a man named Apollos. Apollos knew about the Bible, but Aquila and Priscilla helped Apollos learn more about Jesus. They explained more about God and Jesus. Apollos was happy that Aquila and Priscilla had taught him. Apollos wanted to tell others what he had learned about God and Jesus. Apollos traveled to other cities to tell about Jesus.

KIDS

Scripture: Acts 18:1-3,18-28

Live It Out: How does your family worship God? Let your child take the lead in planning a worship time by choosing songs and other ways to worship God as a family.

Paul was a traveling preacher and missionary. In Corinth, he met Aquila and Priscilla, Christians from Rome. Aquila and his wife Priscilla were tentmakers just like Paul. Paul stayed with them and worked making tents.

Paul, Priscilla, and Aquila traveled to Syria. Priscilla and Aquila stayed in Ephesus while Paul traveled on to other towns to tell of Jesus.

A man named Apollos came to Ephesus. He was a great speaker who knew the Scriptures well. Apollos only knew a little about Jesus. Apollos didn't know about Jesus' life, death, or resurrection! Priscilla and Aquila explained more about Jesus to Apollos.

Apollos went to another town. Apollos spoke wisely to unbelievers and showed them in the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.

STUDENTS

Scripture: Romans 10:9-17

- If you were called upon to tell what Jesus has done for you, what would you say?
- Why is it important to understand that the gospel is for all people?
- What obstacles might keep you from sharing the gospel?
- Where do you see opportunities in your community to share the gospel?

Live It Out: God values all people—born and unborn, young and old, male and female, all ethnicities, those of opposing faiths—and calls Christians to live on mission for the sake of reaching the lost across the street and around the world through prayer, giving resources, loving actions, and sharing the gospel.

Our testimony is a powerful way to help others know about the power of Christ to change our lives. Share your testimony with your student and ask him or her to tell you their own. Challenge each other to share your testimonies with at least one other person this week.