

THE BIBLE

Bird's Eye View:

The Bible is the Word of God. It contains 66 books written by many different people. Although the Bible was written by many people, each person was chosen by God and through the Holy Spirit the story of God's plan for redemption was written. The Bible has two main parts. In the Old Testament we learn about God creating everything by the power of His word alone, the beginning of the nation of His Chosen People, and the promise of a Savior who would redeem all those who trust in Him. The second part of the Bible is the New Testament where learn about the promised Savior, Jesus Christ and the beginning of the Christian Church.

Mapped Out By:

Many Different Authors

GENESIS

Bird's Eye View:

Genesis means "beginning" and we learn about the beginning of everything except God because He was always there. We learn that God is the creator God and that He created all things from plants and animals, the moon, sun, and stars, the first people, Adam and Eve, the beginning of sin and God's plan for redemption, and the beginnings of all nations. In Genesis we also learn about the beginning of the Hebrew nation through Abraham. God promised Abraham that through this nation the whole world would be blessed. Throughout the book of Genesis we see glimpses of Jesus and see the beginning of the story God tells throughout the Bible.

Mapped Out By:

Moses

EXODUS

Bird's Eye View:

Exodus is the second book of the Bible and means "way out." In the book of Exodus we learn about how God calls Moses, leads His people out of slavery in Egypt, and gives Moses the Ten Commandments.

Mapped Out By:

Moses

Family Devotional: Read Genesis 1-3 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- 1. In Genesis 1-3, we learn about God creating everything on earth. Take a walk as a family and point out some of the things God created. Talk about some of your favorite things God has created.**
- 2. It might seem pretty unbelievable that God created everything on earth, but we can be sure that He did. Although the Bible was written by many different people, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that every word comes from God and we know that God's Word is always true. Talk together as a family about what it means for the Bible to be God's Word.**

Family Devotional: Read Genesis 15 and Psalm 33:11

- 1. In Genesis 15 we learn that God made a covenant to a man named Abram. Covenant is a big word for promise. It can be hard for us to keep promises sometime, but we know that God is able to keep all His promises. Talk together as a family about some promises that you have made or that have been made to you. Was the promise kept or was is broken?**
- 2. Psalm 33:11 tells us that God's plan stays the same forever! Genesis is the very first book in the Bible and from the very beginning, God has had a plan that has not changed. God is in control of all things and we can trust His plan. Did you know God has had a plan for you since the very beginning? Talk as a family about how God's plan can help us not to worry or be afraid when we don't understand what is happening and pray together as a family.**

Family Devotional: Read Exodus 19-20 and Psalm 19:7

- 1. In Exodus 10-20 we learn about the 10 Commandments that God gave to Moses. The 10 Commandments are a set of rules that told God's people how to live. The 10 Commandments teach us to love God and to love others. Talk together as a family about some of the rules you have, then read the 10 commandments. Are there some that seem hard to obey? Do some seem easier to obey?**
- 2. Psalm 19:7 tells us that God's law is perfect. Think about the 10 Commandments you just read, do you think you can obey every one perfectly all the time? No, none of us can do that! Only Jesus was able to walk on this earth and perfectly obey God's law. When we disobey God's law, we call that sin. Who is able to save us from our sin? Jesus is able to save us from our sin! Talk together as a family about what it means for Jesus to be our Savior and pray together as a family.**

LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY

Bird's Eye View:

In Leviticus, we see God's people worshiping Him. God gave specific instructions in the book of Leviticus for God's people, showing us the seriousness of sin and our need for a Savior. In Numbers we see God keeping count of His people and continuing to lead them to the land He promised them through Abraham many years before. In the book of Deuteronomy, we see Moses' farewell speech to the Israelites. Moses would die before going into the Promised Land, but in his last speech he reminded the Israelites of all that God had done for them and how to serve and honor the Lord by reminding them of the Ten Commandments.

Mapped Out By:

Moses

JOSHUA

Bird's Eye View:

The book of Joshua is kind of like a bridge between the Books of Law and the rest of the Books of History that we will learn about in the next few weeks. The first part of Joshua tells us about the Israelites taking control of the land was giving to them and in the last few chapters, Joshua reminds the Israelites to obey and honor the Lord.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many people think Joshua wrote at least part of this book

JUDGES

Bird's Eye View:

Judges tells us about a time in Israel's history when God chose judges to lead and rule the Israelites rather than kings. In Joshua we saw the Israelites obeying and serving the Lord, but in Judges, we see disobedience to the Lord.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many think Samuel was the author

Family Devotional: Read Numbers 13-14 and Joshua 1:9

1. In Numbers 13-14, we learn that some of the spies were afraid to take the land that God had promised them, because of the people who lived there. Talk as a family about a time that you were afraid. Maybe it was during a bad storm, after having a bad dream, going somewhere new, or hearing a loud noise. When the spies came back from spying the land, Joshua and Caleb were not afraid. They knew that God had promised them the land and that He would be with them. The people who lived in the land seemed taller and stronger than them, but Joshua and Caleb knew that God is bigger than all things.

2. Read Joshua 1:9 out loud together as a family. How can this verse help you when you are scared. Talk as a family about what it means to be strong and courageous and to know that as a believer, God is always with you.

Family Devotional: Read Joshua 3-4 and Matthew 28:16-20

1. After the Israelites passed through the Jordan River, they built a memorial to help them and future generations remember what the Lord had done for them. The Israelites were told to teach their children what the Lord had done for them. Talk with your child about what the Lord has done in your life and for your family. Take it one step further by finding some small stones and write on them to remind you and your family all that the Lord has done and is doing in your life.

2. Through out the Israelite's journey, we saw that at times they were scared, confused, and even lost faith in the Lord. Talk as a family about times that may have been scary or confusing. Then read Matthew 28:16-20 together as a family. How does knowing that Jesus is always with us, help you to trust Him, even when it's hard?

Family Devotional: Read Judges 6-7 and 2 Timothy 4:16-18

1. In Judges 6-7, God heard the cries of the Israelites and sent Gideon to rescue them from the Midianites. The Israelites were fearful of the Midianites, but God is powerful and He was able to rescue the Israelites from the Midianites. Talk together as a family about when you have been afraid.

2. It was probably scary to fight the Midianites with only 300 men, but God reminding Gideon that He would rescue them from the Midianites when He told him to go and listen to what they were saying during the night. What does 2 Timothy tell us about God rescuing us?

RUTH

Bird's Eye View:

Ruth is one of only two books of the Bible that is named after a woman and one day many years later, Jesus would be born from Ruth's family. Ruth tells us about the same period of time as the book of Judges, when the people were being rebellious and not following God. The Moabite people did not worship the Lord, instead they worshiped many gods. Although Ruth was a Moabite, she knew the Lord and worshiped Him. The book of Ruth has only four chapters, but it is in this book that we continue to learn of God's faithfulness to His people.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many believe Samuel wrote the Book of Ruth

1 SAMUEL

Bird's Eye View:

Originally, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel would have been one book, but may have been split into two books so that it was easier to write on the scrolls. These books tell us about Samuel and the transition from people being ruled by judges to people being ruled by kings. Samuel was the last of the judges and he was also a priest and a prophet. A prophet was someone who heard from God and told the people what God said.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, possibly Samuel, Nathan, or Gad

2 SAMUEL

Bird's Eye View:

Originally, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel would have been one book, but may have been split into two books. This book tells us about Samuel who was the last judge, and the transition from people being ruled by judges to people being ruled by kings. Samuel was the last of the judges and he was also a priest and a prophet. The book of 2 Samuel tells us what happened during David's reign as king.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but Samuel may have written part of 1 and 2 Samuel

Family Devotional: Read Ruth 2 and Romans 3:23-24

1. In Ruth 2 we learn that Ruth met a man named Boaz who helped Ruth and provided for her family. Ruth's mother-in-law said Boaz was a guardian-redeemer for their family. During this time a guardian-redeemer was an extended family member who families could ask for help to buy something back that was lost. Ask your child if they have ever lost something that would like to have back?

2. All signs continue to point to Jesus as Jesus is our redeemer. Romans 3:23-24, tells us that we are all sinners. When we sin, we loose the right to live with Jesus forever in Heaven, we are redeemed through Jesus who paid the punishment of our sins on the cross. When admit we are sinners, believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again three days later, and confess Him as Lord of our life, we are redeemed and able to live with Jesus forever. Spend some time talking as a family about your own walk with the Lord and help your child to understand what it means to confess Jesus as Lord of their life.

Family Devotional: Read 1 Samuel 13 and 16

1. Samuel was the king the people chose, but as we can see in 1 Samuel 13, things were not working out very well. Samuel reminded Saul that he hadn't obeyed God and because of his disobedience, Saul would not remain king for long. Samuel told Saul that God would choose the next king and he would be a man who was after God's own heart. What do you think it means to be after God's heart?

2. In 1 Samuel 16, we find out that the man God had chosen to be the next king was David. David didn't look like a king, but God knew David's heart. David loved God and tried his best to obey God. Do you love God? Is it hard to obey God sometimes? Yes, even when we love God it can still be hard to obey Him. Talk as a family about when it may be hard to obey God and spend some time praying together thanking God for wanting His best for you and asking Him to help you to obey Him.

Family Devotional: Read 1 Kings 11-12 and Psalm 145:13b

1. In 2 Samuel 7, God makes a promise to David known as the Davidic Covenant. A covenant is a special word for promise. Talk together about something that was promised to you or promises that you have made. Can you think of any promises that were not kept?

2. God promised David that one day there would be a king from his family and his kingdom would remain forever. It can be hard for us to keep all of our promises, but we can be sure that God is able to keep all His promises. In Luke 1:32, an angel came to Mary and told her that she would have a son who she would name Jesus and the Lord would give Him the throne of His father David. Jesus is often called Son of David. Talk together as a family about what it means to know that God is able to keep all His promises. Pray together as a family, praising God for keeping His promises.

1 KINGS

Bird's Eye View:

Similar to 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings was originally one book, but was later split into two books. 1 Kings tells us about the time after King David's reign. At the beginning of this book, Israel is one kingdom, but by the end of this book Israel is split into two kingdoms.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many believe that Jeremiah wrote both 1 and 2 Kings

2 KINGS

Bird's Eye View:

Like 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings was originally one book, but was later split into two books. In the book of 2 Kings tells us about God's people being captured and taken out of the Promised Land and many of the kings of Judah and Israel.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many believe that Jeremiah wrote both 1 and 2 Kings

1 CHRONICLES

Bird's Eye View:

Like other books, 1 and 2 Chronicles was originally one book. These books tell us a different view of the Jewish history that is also told in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. The beginning of 1 Chronicles tells about many of the families and leaders that came after Adam. The second part of this book tells about King David's reign.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many believe that Ezra wrote 1 and 2 Chronicles

Family Devotional: Read 1 Kings 11-12 and Psalm 145:13b

1. In 1 Kings 11-12, we learn that although Solomon was wise, he made many mistakes and disobeyed God as king. We are reminded from this story that sin and disobedience have consequences. Talk together as a family about some consequences to disobedience in your home. Do you have rules that you need to obey? What happens when you don't follow the rules or disobey?

2. Disobedience does have consequences, but we can also be sure that just like our family will love us no matter what, God will also love us no matter what. Sometime we make promises to a friend or a family member that we are not able to keep. Can you think of a time that you made a promise to someone or a promise was made you that was not able to be kept? Unlike humans, in Psalm 145:13b, we learn God is able to keep all His promises. Take some time to praise God as a family thanking Him for keeping His promises.

Family Devotional: Read 2 Kings 5 and Romans 10:13

1. In 2 Kings 5, we learn about a man named Naaman who had a disease called leprosy. Talk together as a family about a time that you were really sick or afraid of getting sick. Maybe you or your kids have had some fear about Covid-19 or you were afraid of getting another type of sickness that would stop you from doing some that that you really wanted to do like going to a birthday party or playing at a sporting event. Talk together as a family about how God healed Naaman and He is able to heal you too!

2. In Luke 4:27 Jesus told the story of Naaman while teaching the people that God's blessings were for all people, not only the Jews. Naaman was a Syrian, but God chose to heal him even though there were many Jews who also has Leprosy. Read Romans 10:13. Talk about what it means to call on the name of the Lord, admit you are a sinner, believe Jesus is the Son of God, was crucified, and rose again on the third day, and confess Him as Lord of your life. Although your kids may be young and not able to fully understand what this means, its great for them to hear the ABCs. Pray together as a family, thanking God for His ability to heal and save all people.

Family Devotional: Read 1 Chronicles 28 and 1 Corinthians 3:16

1. In 1 Chronicles 28, we learned that David wanted a temple to be built for the Lord, but the Lord chose David's son Samual to build the temple. Talk with your child about what it might have been like to build the temple. Then, encourage your child to get creative to show you what they think the temple might have looked like. They could use legos, other building blocks, or draw a picture.

2. The temple was sort of like a church, but not even the priests were able to enter the temple, because it was filled with the presence of the Lord. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and talk together as a family about what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit and then pray together as a family. Although your child may be young and this may be hard for them to understand, it is good for them to begin to hear and be able to talk though.

2 CHRONICLES

Bird's Eye View:

Like other books, 1 and 2 Chronicles was originally one book. These books tell us a different view of the Jewish history that is also told in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings. The book of 2 Chronicles tells us about King Solomon and the kings of Judah.

Mapped Out By:

Unknown, but many believe that Ezra wrote 1 and 2 Chronicles

BOOK TITLE

Bird's Eye View:

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Family Devotional: Read 2 Chronicles 34:14-33 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. In 2 Chronicles 34:14-33 we learn that King Josiah wanted to repair the temple. Josiah loved the Lord and it was important to him that the temple was repaired. Talk together as a family about something that is important to you. Is there anything that you would be upset if it fell apart or something that you like to make sure is well taken care of? Maybe a special toy or a place you love? Why do you think it was important to Josiah to repair the temple?

2. While the temple was being repaired, God's Law was found and King Josiah made sure that it was read to everyone in the kingdom. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 together as a family. Talk together as a family about why it's important for everyone to hear and know God's Word. Then, pray together as a family thanking God for His Word and knowing what is best for us.

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