



FAMILY

DEVOTION

Dear John,

During World War II many of the soldiers left girlfriends behind. They swore their love to each other promised to write and then headed off for war. Many of the soldiers received letters from their sweetheart at home that were "Dear John". They were the break up letter. No soldier wanted to get the dreaded "Dear John" letter.

The apostle John writes to us from the evidence he had seen. He was the disciple whom Jesus loved. He sat next to Jesus at the Lord's Supper. He was one of only three disciples invited to the mount of transfiguration and the garden of Gethsemane. John was one of the Sons of thunder. He writes the second most content in the New Testament, five books in all. The entire book of 1John is written so that we may know that we have eternal life. He gives tests to us throughout the book. There are eight distinctions that will mark our lives in this book if we are saved. If we fail but one of these tests, the encouragement is to "Know that you have eternal life".

When we are saved it isn't about what we do to be saved. If we did the right things said the right words. The key is what did God do in us that proved to us that we are saved? When He saves us there are things that happen. We will spend the next seven weeks examining our lives and determining whether or not we have we said "Dear John" to the things that need to go.

Lessons on **BREAKING UP**

*Dear Darkness, Dear Self Righteousness, Dear World,
Dear Hate, Dear Sinful Help, Dear Self Helps, Dear Doubt*

Dear John Family Devotion

This study takes a little different focus than the small group series. It is designed to help families go through 1 John and understand some parallel ideas to what will be preached and studied during the seven week series. 12th Street has an awesome opportunity to integrate 1 John in the lives of our families. Whether your family is just you, or husband and wife, or kids involved, please use this study to help your family devotions touch the heart of what we are doing at 12th Street.

Taken From Mars Hill Church (Seattle Washington) booklet on 1 John.

How to use this material: Individually meditate on, pray over, and review the Scriptures and questions. For the parents, particularly the fathers of young children, it is important for you to sing, pray, read Scripture, and discuss God with your young children each day. It will be best to keep these times short (i.e. 10-15 minutes or so), because if they are too long and arduous your children will grow to resent them, which is a terrible thing to do to a child. In your home, each night before bed time take time to read Bible stories, discuss Scripture, sing, pray together, cuddle, etc. This is will be the highlight of your day and theirs. As a parent, you will be wise to also capture the teachable moments that emerge each day to cultivate your children's hearts toward loving obedience to Jesus. Lastly, if your children are older, then they should be able to do the same Bible studies in this booklet that you are, and the community group questions will be appropriate for your dinner table conversations with them.

Contents

Week One	2
Week Two	5
Week Three	7
Week Four	9
Week Five	11
Week Six	13
Week Seven	15

Week One

Scripture to Read

I John 1:1-4

Summary of the Texts

John begins his letter by establishing his credibility as a teacher. He reasons that, because he was a friend and Apostle of Jesus who was present for His entire ministry to hear Jesus' teaching, see Jesus' life and miracles, and touch Jesus' physical body, he is the most credible teacher about Jesus. His argument is very important because, in his day, there were no such things as cameras and video cameras—it was eyewitness testimony that would have been the most credible piece of evidence. John's summary of Jesus is that He was/is the Word of God (or how God the Father has spoken to us), the eternal God who at a point in time entered into human history as a man, who has made it possible for us to have friendship with God as Christians and each other as the church. John then gives the first of four reasons why he has written the letter: that God's people may have joy through their friendship with each other and with God the Father, which is all made possible through Jesus (1:4). In this section we learn the primacy of clinging to the eyewitness accounts of the Apostles that Jesus was/ is both fully God and fully man, without being led astray by persuasive false teachers armed with their legion of books, web sites, radio programs, television shows, and the like.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Questions for Personal Study

- Why does John begin his letter by focusing on Jesus and establishing his credibility as a reliable witness?
- Why is eyewitness testimony about Jesus the most credible?
- What is fellowship? Why is fellowship only possible with God and each other through Jesus?
- How are you experiencing the fellowship with God and other Christians that John speaks of?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- John says that he heard Jesus, saw Jesus, and touched Jesus. Which particular experiences that John had would you most like to have had with Jesus?
- Why should we trust eyewitness testimony of Jesus' life over the critiques of people who lived long after He ascended back into Heaven?
- Why is having eyewitness testimony about Jesus helpful in witnessing to non-Christians?
- Why is fellowship only possible with God and each other through Jesus?
- How are you experiencing the fellowship with God and Christians that John speaks of? According to John, how is complete joy possible?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Briefly teach your children John's life story from the day he met Jesus until he died as a godly old pastor.

John started out working for his dad as a fisherman until Jesus walked by the boat while John was fishing and told John and his brother, James, to follow Him. John left his father's boat and followed Jesus. He was one of the three disciples who got to go to special places with Jesus, the Mount of Transfiguration, and the Garden of Gethsemane. During the first Lord's Supper, John sat next to Jesus and leaned on Jesus to ask Him questions. John is described as the disciple Jesus loved. Jesus was a closer friend with John than with the other disciples.

Biblepath.com describes the rest of John's life this way:

The apostle John rose to a position of influence within world-wide Christianity and shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD, he moved to Ephesus (in modern day, Turkey.) He became the pastor of the church in Ephesus and had a special relationship with other churches in the area (as we know from the letters to the Seven Churches in Asia, in the book of Revelation.)

John's brother, James, was the first of the apostles to die; on the other hand, John was the last. All of the apostles met a violent death, however, John died peacefully in Ephesus (at an advanced age, around the year 100 AD.)

There is a church tradition, which says, that while John was living in Ephesus, John had with him Mary, the mother of Jesus, for a few years.

While in Ephesus, by order of the Roman emperor Domitian, John was exiled to an island called Patmos. In what is known as the cave of the Apocalypse (located on this island), the sacred text of the book of Revelation was given to the apostle John by Jesus (it is here that John recorded what is written in the New Testament book of Revelation.)

Other New Testament books accredited to John are the Gospel of John, along with 1st, 2nd and 3rd John.

When he was released from exile, he returned to Ephesus and lived till the time of the Roman emperor Trajan.

It is said that John, "Founded and built churches throughout all Asia, and worn out by old age, died in the sixty-eight year after our Lord's passion and was buried near the same city (Ephesus)."

TUESDAY: Inform your children of some of the things that John heard Jesus teach, or if they know about Jesus' teaching, ask them to tell you what they remember that Jesus taught.

WEDNESDAY: Teach your children some of the things that John saw Jesus do, such as performing miracles and rising from death.

THURSDAY: Teach your children some of the occasions when John likely got to touch Jesus as they were friends and co-workers.

FRIDAY: Explain to your children that Jesus has lived forever as God and that He became a man so that we could know who God was and love Him. Ask them if they were John what things they would have most liked to see Jesus do or hear Jesus teach.

SATURDAY: Explain to your children that sin separates us from God and each other and that Jesus died to forgive our sin and rose to take it away. Now, we can be friends with God and with other people. Make sure that they understand what Jesus has done for them, and spend some time thanking God for loving them and thanking God for Christian friends.

SUNDAY: Explain to your children that you are going to church to learn more about Jesus and to have fun with other Christians, so they need to pay attention to the teaching and be kind to other people.

Week Two

Scripture to Read

I John 1:5-2:2

Summary of the Texts

John moves from his opening comments about Jesus as fully God and fully man to teaching about our sin problem. He first teaches that God is neither sinful, nor the cause of any human sin. He then teaches that if we love God, then we will hate sin and see a change in our lives as we learn to confess our sin and have victory over it. And, though our goal is to not sin, the fact remains that though we can and will grow in holiness we will never be without sin in this lifetime; therefore, we will continually need to repent of sin and seek forgiveness from Jesus who died for our sin in our place. Lastly, John gives us the second reason for writing this letter: that we would not sin (2:1). In this section we see that sin is the problem in our lives individually and collectively as the church, and that unless we know how to deal with sin we and our church will become sick and die.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 1:8-9 “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Questions for Personal Study

- Why is it so vital that we understand what sin is and what to do about it?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the “atoning sacrifice” for our sins?
- What does it mean to confess our sins?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- How did becoming a Christian alter your view of your own sinfulness?
- How has repentance of sin and Jesus’ cleansing brought healing and new life to you?
- Why is it important that we know that Jesus not only forgives our sin but also cleanses us from the stain of our sin and the sins that have been committed against us?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Explain to your children that God loves them like a Father/Daddy and that in the Bible He teaches them how to live a good and holy life. Then explain to them that when we disobey God the Bible calls that sin. Ask your children if there are any sins they have recently committed and teach them how to pray to God asking for forgiveness.

TUESDAY: Explain to your children that Jesus was God and the only person who has never sinned. And, because of our sin we are supposed to die and go to Hell forever. But, Jesus died for our sins and went back into Heaven and will take us there when we die, if we love Him and hate sin. Then, make sure that they know that Jesus will forgive them for anything they do, and that they need to be quick to pray to Him for forgiveness when they sin.

WEDNESDAY: Explain to your children that God is like a Father/Daddy and that Christians are like His children whom He loves. Ask your children what this means to them. Then, explain to them that when they pray to God it is like speaking to their daddy, and as long as they are respectful He loves to hear from them and answer their prayers. To illustrate this, spend some time in prayer together to God the Father. 14

THURSDAY: Teach your children that God is not sinful, never says or does any bad things, and doesn't want us to sin either. Explain to them that God sees everything they do, so there are no secrets with God, and then ask them if they have any hidden secret sins that they need to ask God for forgiveness of.

FRIDAY: Teach your children that God loves people from all over the world and, because of that, we should never dislike someone because they are from a different culture, race, or country. Explain to them that God made all different kinds of people, that Jesus died for all kinds of people, and that in Heaven there will be people of all colors and races and nations. Spend some time in prayer for people you know who are of a different race or culture than your children, that they will love Jesus and be in Heaven.

SATURDAY: Teach your children that when we sin against God, He forgives us. And, when someone else sins against us we need to forgive them too. Ask them if anyone has sinned against them who they need to forgive, so they don't stay mad at them, and then pray for that person together and have your children speak with them and tell them that they forgive them.

SUNDAY: Make sure that you get into the habit of having your children name their sin, go to the person(s) that they sinned against and name their sin and ask for that person's forgiveness. When others (e.g. siblings) sin against your children, make sure that this process of confessing the sin and asking for the forgiveness that is then extended is continually practiced.

Week Three

Scripture to Read

I John 2:3-11

Summary of the Texts

Not only are Christians supposed to hate sin, they are also supposed to love God (demonstrated in their obedience to His Word) and love fellow Christians. Here John basically restates Jesus' summary of the Old Testament in Matthew 22:34-40 where He taught that the commands of the Bible were intended to show us how to love God and other people. Conversely, anyone who claims to be a Christian but has hatred toward a fellow Christian is living in the evil of darkness, thereby ruining his life and his church. Indeed, these simple points of loving God by obeying Him and loving His people by forgiving them are the twin pillars of church life. Apparently the false teachers in that day, like our own day, were encouraging people to disobey parts of the Bible and not forgive fellow Christians in favor of hatred, which was killing the church. In this section God intends for us to learn that our theology is not just ideological, but also intensely practical, and to be lived in our daily lives by obeying God and loving people; otherwise, we may be orthodox with our beliefs and heretics with our behavior.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 2:9 "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. "

Questions for Personal Study

- Is it possible to be a Christian and have a habitual life pattern of disobeying God? Who do you love? Why?
- Is there any Christian who you do not love and need to forgive or make amends with? How will you do that? If you do not, how may this darkness that has settled upon you negatively impact your Christian life?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- John learned from Jesus that love for God precedes and causes obedience to God (e.g. John 14:15,21-24). How does this differ from the teaching of other religions that if you obey god he will love you?
- Why does love for God naturally produce obedience to God?
- How have you experienced God simply putting a love for other Christians into your heart?
- Which Christian people do you love the most? Why?

- How can Christian love for one another be a means of non-Christians' better understanding the gospel? Is there any Christian(s) who you are not on loving terms with and need to forgive or make amends with? What is your plan to do so?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Explain to your children that God knows what is best for us and tells us in the Bible how to live our lives so they will be good. And, if we truly love God then we will do what He says. Ask them to explain to you if they love God, and if so, how they are trying to obey Him in their lives.

TUESDAY: Explain to your children that Jesus was a sinless and perfect person because He was God, and that He is our best example of how to live. Ask them to explain to you things they know about Jesus' life that they want to imitate in their lives (e.g. a love for people, regular prayer life, reading of the Bible, etc.).¹⁷

WEDNESDAY: Explain to your children that as Christians we are not supposed to hate anybody but instead love people and forgive them, no matter what. Teach them that when we hate people it makes us mean and angry, which is not how we should live our lives. Ask them if there is anyone with whom they are angry, or anything that has recently made them angry that they need to talk to you about, and then pray for them.

THURSDAY: Ask your children why they don't like the dark, especially when trying to walk around in the dark. Then, explain that when we don't obey God and love people, the Bible says it's just like we're walking around in the darkness tripping over things and hurting ourselves. Explain to them that you leave a light on for them at night so they don't have to be stuck in the darkness, and that Jesus is a sort of light who lights up their lives and shows them what to do and where to go.

FRIDAY: Spend some time in worship and prayer together with your children thanking God for things for which they are grateful.

SATURDAY: Spend some time asking your children some of the Bible questions from the appendix of this book.

SUNDAY: Ask your children what they learned at church and how things went with the other children, as well as answering any questions they may have from their lesson at church.

Week Four

Scripture to Read

I John 2:12-17

Summary of the Texts

Writing to some of the various groupings of people in the church that include older and younger men and seasoned and newer Christians, John commends them for their spiritual progress. He notes that because they know God, their sins have been forgiven, they have been able to overcome Satan, live out of strength, and learn the Bible to the degree that it has become internalized so deeply into their hearts and minds that it has become part of them. For those true Christians who have experienced what John lists as evidences of salvation (in contrast to the false Christians who had infiltrated their ranks), John commands against worldliness. Worldliness in the Bible does not mean that Christians are to abstain from culture, but rather that we should abstain from the ways of thinking, valuing, and behaving that are contrary to God's will, as revealed in Scripture. John describes worldliness as the cravings of our sinful flesh (gluttony, sexual perversion, drunkenness, etc.), lust of our eyes (sexual lust, coveting, etc.), and arrogant pride that causes us to boast in ourselves without ever thanking God. In our age filled with advertising, rock stars, supermodels, and celebrities, it is not an overstatement to say that if worldliness means living 19 only to please our flesh and pursue what our eyes lust after—so that we can arrogantly boast about our conquests and accomplishments—then worldliness is a synonym for America. Therefore, John reminds us that the world is going to burn up in the end; but if we belong to God we will live forever with Him, and so we must remain ever vigilant to love God and not the world.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 2:15 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Questions for Personal Study

- What does it mean that the Word of God lives in you?
- Mark the following verses on the world in your Bible and summarize what the Bible means by that term (I John 2:15-17, 3:1, 3:13, 4:1, 4:3-5, 4:9, 5:4-5, 5:19).
- Why should we not love the world?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- How long have you been a Christian? What are some of the biggest struggles/trials God has enabled you to overcome?

- What is worldliness and why should Christians avoid it?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Explain to your children that the world we live in is filled with temptation to sin and so we must be careful to avoid the sins we are tempted to commit. Explain to them that sometimes the world tempts us to sin by giving us things that taste or feel good but are not good for us. Teach them that such things include common kid-sins like stealing candy, pop, and other goodies from the snack drawer to eat in hiding. Teach them that older kids do the same with such things as drugs, sex, and alcohol but just because something feels or tastes good does not mean that it is good for you. 20

TUESDAY: Explain to your children that our world tempts them to sin by having them see things that they want so they will steal them or whine at their parents to buy them. Explain that we can't always have something just because we see it and want it. Further explain to them that such things as television ads are showing them things in order to take their parents' money; therefore, they should not always whine for and demand things that they see in television or while shopping at the store with their parent(s).

WEDNESDAY: Teach your children that pride is one of the very worse sins, and that this is what got Satan kicked out of Heaven. Explain to them the difference between confidence and arrogance. Confidence is when we trust God and the abilities He has given us and thank Him for allowing us to do things well. Arrogance is when we forget God and take credit for the things we do and skills we have. Teach your children that humility is much better than pride, and that Jesus was very humble.

THURSDAY: Teach your children that if they memorize and study the Bible that it will live inside of them. Then, when they need to make decisions in life the parts of the Bible they have learned will help them. Ask them which parts of the Bible they think are tucked away in their hearts.

FRIDAY: Spend some time simply reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

SATURDAY: Explain to your children that if we are Christians who love Jesus, one day we will be with Him in Heaven. Teach them that in Heaven there will be all of the fun things that we like in life, only without sickness, sin, death, or nighttime. Ask your children if they have any questions about Heaven for you.

SUNDAY: Tell your children that you want them to pay attention to the lesson at church and to help welcome any new children they see. After church ask them on the drive home what they learned in their lesson.

Week Five

Scripture to Read

I John 2:28-3:10

Summary of the Texts

In this section John contrasts God and His children with Satan and his followers. John teaches us who God is--namely righteous, loving, pure, sinless, and victorious over Satan and sin. And, God who is our Father has spiritual children and they are Christians. Christians, therefore, seek to imitate God by doing what is right, purifying themselves from sin, overcoming sin, and loving fellow Christians. Conversely, Satan and his followers are referred to as lawbreakers, sinful, wayward, wrongdoers, and unloving. In this section we see that all of humanity can be divided into two categories: those who belong to God and those who belong to Satan.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. "

Questions for Personal Study

- What is John's definition of sin?
 - How does 1:8,10 help to shed light on 3:6?
 - Why are Christianity and habitual sin incompatible according to this section?
- 30

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- Why is it important that we understand the family motif: God is a Father, we are the children He loves, and He wants us to love our brothers and sisters in the faith?
- What did you find most helpful, and what did you find most surprising about the list of evidences that someone is part of God's family?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Teach your children John's definition of sin in 3:4 so that they understand that it is wrong for them to disobey God's laws, which include the law that they should obey their parents (Exodus 20:12).

TUESDAY: Teach your children that God loves them like a Father/Daddy and that they are His children. Let them know that the church is supposed to be like a family with people who love each other like brothers and sisters. Then, spend some time in prayer for Christians that they know, thanking God for Christian friends.

WEDNESDAY: Teach your children that being a Christian is both believing that Jesus is God, and living our lives like Jesus. Ask them what qualities in Jesus' life (e.g. not sinning) they think they should be imitating, and spend some time in prayer together asking God to help them both believe and live as a Christian.

THURSDAY: Spend some time singing worship songs and praying with your children.

FRIDAY: Spend some time reading Bible stories about Jesus with your children

SATURDAY: Allow your children to ask you some questions from this booklet.

SUNDAY: Pray with your children before attending church, asking that they will be well-behaved, will learn, and will welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and if there is anyone or anything they want you to pray for.

Week Six

Scripture to Read

I John 4:1-6

Summary of the Texts

Active in our world are God and Satan, angels and demons. Therefore, just because someone has spiritual power or insight does not mean that the spirit(s) empowering them are from God. This would obviously include everything from the occult to witchcraft, and spiritual teachers and religious leaders who are both allegedly Christian and non-Christian. Therefore, we must carefully test spirits by the messages they convey, either directly or through someone else who claims to have received insight or power from a spirit.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Questions for Personal Study

- Who are some of the most popular false prophets/teachers you are aware of?
- What is the difference between a true and false spiritual leader/teacher?
- Why are false teachers/prophets so popular?
- Why does Satan empower false teachers? 35

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What examples come to mind of people who do not worship Jesus as fully God and fully man, but who are popular because of their spiritual powers or insights?
- Why are false spiritual leaders/teachers so perennially popular?
- How can you tell the difference between a spiritual leader/teacher empowered by the Holy Spirit and someone empowered by a demon?
- Why is it so important to be discerning and to only embrace the instruction of true teachers?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Spend some time reading the Bible and praying with your children.

TUESDAY: Teach your children that we live in a world that is both physical (what we see) and spiritual (what we don't see) and that both worlds have good and evil. Explain to them that in the physical world there are people who love Jesus and people who do not. And, the same is true in the spiritual world, as angels love God and demons do not. But, the good news is that God is stronger

than everyone and everything, so if we pray to Him we have nothing to worry about. Make sure that your children know that when they are scared (e.g. in bed at night) or in need they can always ask Jesus to help and protect them.

WEDNESDAY: Spend time letting your children ask you questions from this booklet.

THURSDAY: Teach your children that there are good spiritual teachers who love Jesus and teach the Bible, as well as bad teachers who don't love Jesus and don't teach the Bible. Explain to them that it is important for them to only believe things taught about Jesus from people who love Jesus and teach the truth about Him from the Bible.

FRIDAY: Spend some time singing worship songs and praying with your children.

SATURDAY: Teach your children that just because an idea is popular with a lot of people does not mean it is true. Explain to them that a lot of people believe things about Jesus and what is right and wrong that are just not true, so they need to always check with you and God to know what is true and right and what is false and wrong. Ask them if they can think of any kids they know who believe wrong things, so that you can work with them on understanding this principle.

SUNDAY: Pray with your children before attending church, asking that they will be well-behaved, will learn, and will welcome other children. After church ask them what they learned and if there is anyone or anything they want you to pray for.

Week Seven

Scripture to Read

I John 5:6-13

Summary of the Texts

This section is perhaps the most difficult in all of I John. John reasons that God has given us ample evidence to believe in Jesus because He has testified through the water, blood, and Spirit. In this section we also find the reason that the book was written, namely to enable us to have certainty about our salvation (5:13). This certainty of our salvation is incredibly important because without it we would live with continual fear and worry about whether or not God loved us, which is a terrifying way to live. 42

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

I John 5:13 “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

Questions for Personal Study

- The assurance of our salvation comes down to one issue; what is that issue?
- Why is it vital that someone be certain that they have eternal life?
- Do you have eternal life? How do you know with certainty?

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- The assurance of our salvation comes down to one issue; what is that issue?
- According to the rest of the book that preceded 5:13 what are evidences in a person’s life that they have been saved by Jesus? What evidences in your own life do you lean on to help assure you of your salvation?

Tips for Parents with Young Children

MONDAY: Spend some time reading Bible stories and praying with your children.

TUESDAY: Teach your children that we can know whether or not we are loved by God and are going to Heaven when we die. And, if we love Jesus as God then we can be sure that God loves us and we are Christians. Ask your children if they love Jesus, and if so why they love Him.

WEDNESDAY: Spend some time with your children singing worship songs and answering questions from the back of this booklet.

THURSDAY: Spend some time in prayer with your children for people who you know who don't know Jesus but need to.

FRIDAY: Spend some time discussing with your children why they love Jesus, and then pray together thanking God for His love. 43

SATURDAY: Teach your children that in other religions people cannot know if they are loved by God and are going to Heaven, because in other religions you have to be good for God to love you. Make sure they understand that we can know we are going to Heaven not because of what we do, but because Jesus died and rose for our sins, and that God does not love us if we are good but rather loves us to make us good.

SUNDAY: After church follow up with your children to see what they learned and if there were any new kids who they got to meet and welcome.

125 Kids Bible Questions

The point of the Kids' Bible Questions is to both teach your children and also find out how much of what you are teaching them they are remembering. The following questions range from very simple to more complicated and you can choose which ones are best for your children. If you can think of additional questions feel free to use them also. As you ask these questions your children will likely have lots of questions of their own so do take your time to answer their questions as that is incredibly important and gives you insight to their degree of understanding about God.

Questions about God

Q: How many Gods are there?

A: One

Q: What is the Trinity?

A: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit

Q: What are four names for God?

A: Christ, Jesus, Lord, Father, God, Holy Spirit, King, etc.

Q: Who made God?

A: No one, God has lived forever

Q: Where is God?

A: In Heaven and everywhere

Q: Is there anything or anyone more powerful than God?

A: No

Q: Name three miracles God has done.

A: Created the world, parted the Red Sea, brought manna down from Heaven, came to earth as Jesus to the virgin Mary, walked on water, healed people, rose from death, etc.

Q: What does God know?

A: Everything

Questions about the Bible

Q: Who wrote the Bible?

A: God told His people what to write down

Q: Does the Bible have any mistakes?

A: No, it is perfect

Q: What is the most important thing in the Bible?

A: Jesus

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times before Jesus was born?

A: Old Testament

Q: What part of the Bible is about the times after Jesus was born?

A: New Testament

Q: How many books are in the Bible?

A: 66

Q: How many books are in the Old Testament?

A: 39

Q: What is the first book of the Bible?

A: Genesis

Q: How many books are in the New Testament?

A: 27

Q: What is the last book of the Bible?

A: Revelation

Q: Name three people who wrote books of the Bible.

A: Moses, David, Solomon, John, Paul, Peter, etc.

Q: What are the four gospels?

A: The stories about Jesus' life

Q: Who wrote the four gospels?

A: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Q: What does the Bible call a preacher?

A: A prophet

Q: Is Jesus ever coming back to earth?

A: Yes, to take us to Heaven, and become the King of earth

Q: Why did Jesus die?

A: For our sins

Q: Why did Jesus die for our sins?

A: He loves us

Questions about the Disciples

Q: What do you call someone who learns from their teacher?

A: A disciple

Q: Name three of Jesus' Disciples?

A: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas

Q: Who was the man who hated Christians before God changed his heart and made him a Christian pastor?

A: Saul/Paul

Q: Which Disciple betrayed Jesus?

A: Judas

Q: Who was Jesus' best friend and youngest Disciple?

A: John

Q: Who was the lead Disciple?

A: Peter

Q: Which Disciple doubted that Jesus had risen from death?

A: Thomas

Questions about creation

Q: Who made everything?

A: God

Q: Why did God make everything?

A: For us to enjoy

Q: Why did God make everything so beautiful?

A: Because God is an artist

Questions about Christian Living

Q: What is a Christian?

A: Someone whose God is Jesus

Q: What is prayer?

A: When we talk to God

Q: Is Jesus ever coming back to earth?

A: Yes, to take us to Heaven, and become the King of earth

Q: Why did Jesus die?

A: For our sins

Q: Why did Jesus die for our sins?

A: He loves us

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Questions about Christian Living

Q: What is a Christian?

A: Someone whose God is Jesus

Q: What is prayer?

A: When we talk to God

Q: What can we pray to God about?

A: Anything

Q: Why should we obey God?

A: Because He loves us and knows what is good for us

Q: Are we supposed to worship other people?

A: No

Q: Who are we supposed to worship?

A: God/Jesus

Q: What are some ways we can worship God?

A: Reading the Bible, praying, serving, doing chores, telling others about Jesus, obeying God, obeying mom and dad, singing, etc.

Q: What is communion supposed to remind us of?

A: Jesus' body and blood for our sins

Q: What is baptism?

A: Christians showing that Jesus died and rose to cleanse them from sin

Q: What is tithing?

A: Giving money to pay for things at church

Q: What should we do to people who aren't Christians?

A: Be nice to them, tell them about Jesus, and pray to God for them.

Q: Name a godly child in the Bible.

A: David, Samuel, Jesus, Joseph, Daniel, etc.

Q: Who hit his brother and killed him?

A: Cain killed Abel

Questions about Heaven

Q: Can you get to Heaven just by being good?

A: No

Q: How do you get to Heaven?

A: You have to ask Jesus to forgive your sins

Q: Does everyone go to Heaven when they die?

A: No, only Christians, people who believe in Jesus and have asked Him to forgive them.

Q: What will we do in Heaven?

A: Sing, eat, play with friends, be with God, etc.

Q: Will kids be in Heaven?

A: Yes, God loves children and they can love God

Q: Will animals be in Heaven?

A: Yes

Q: Will Heaven be scary?

A: No, everything is fun and it never even gets dark

Q: Who is in charge of Heaven?

A: God

Q: What does Jesus sit on in Heaven?

A: A big throne

Q: Will there be angels in Heaven?

A: Yes, and they will sing to God with us

Q: Will anyone sin in Heaven?

A: No

Q: Will anyone get sick or die in Heaven?

A: No

Q: Will anyone be sad in Heaven?

A: No, everyone will be happy

Q: Will there be music in Heaven?

A: Yes, God loves music, God sings, God has instruments in Heaven, and people, angels, and animals will all sing in Heaven

Q: Will there be parties in Heaven?

A: Yes

Q: What do you think we will do at the parties in Heaven?

A: Eat food, sing, dance, laugh, play games, see our friends, meet God, etc.

Questions about sin

Q: What is sin?

A: Sin is when you don't do what you are supposed to, or do what you are not supposed to

Q: What are some sins you have done?

A: Yelling, not sharing, stealing, yelling, lying, etc.

Q: Is it a sin to not do what your mom or dad say?

A: Yes

Q: What sin did the Israelites commit while walking around for forty years?

A: Whining and complaining

Q: Is it a sin to make a mistake?

A: No, everyone makes mistakes (e.g. spilling your milk) and they are not sins

Q: Who sins?

A: Everyone but Jesus

Q: Why did Jesus die?

A: For our sins

Q: What should we do when we sin?

A: Pray to Jesus to forgive us

Q: What should we do when we sin against someone?

A: Tell them we are sorry and ask them to forgive us

Questions about the Gospel

Q: What is the gospel?

A: The story about Jesus dying for our sins

Q: What is repentance?

A: Asking God to forgive our sins

Q: What is grace?

A: When God gives us something we don't deserve (like love or forgiveness)

Q: What is mercy?

A: When God doesn't give us something we deserve because He loves us (like Jesus dying for our sins so that we don't have to)

Q: What is faith?

A: Trusting God

Questions for boys

Q: Name three things a Christian husband is supposed to do:

A: Love God, love his wife, work hard, take care of his family, provide money, food and bread

Q: Name three things that a Christian dad is supposed to do.

A: Love God, love his kids, teach his kids the Bible, pray with his kids, play with his kids, discipline his kids, etc

Q: What will Jesus be like when he comes back to stop the bad guys?

A: He will ride a horse, wear a white robe dipped in blood, and have a sword coming from His mouth

Q: If Satan is a Dragon what will Jesus do to him?

A: Jesus will slay the dragon with His sword and cast his soul into the Lake of Fire to be punished forever and ever

Questions for girls

Q: Name three godly women in the Bible.

A: Mary, Esther, Ruth, Elizabeth, Miriam, Deborah, Rahab, etc.

Q: Name two sinful women from the Bible.

A: Delilah, Potiphar's wife, Jezebel, Tamar, Herodias's daughter, Bathsheeba, etc.

Q: Who was Jesus' mom?

A: Mary

Q: Which lady sang and danced to worship God after he parted the Red Sea?

A: Moses' sister Miriam

Q: Name three things a Christian wife is supposed to do

A: Love God, respect her husband, work hard, take care of her family, etc.

Q: Name three things that a Christian mom is supposed to do.

A: Love God, love her kids, teach her kids, read books and the Bible with her kids, feed her kids, discipline her kids, pray with her kids, play with her kids, etc.

Q: Who should tell a girl who she should marry?

A: Her daddy

Family Signatures

12TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

3911 South 12th Street in Kalamazoo, Michigan
church 269-353-8133 or pastor cell 269-362-1074

Pastor Thaddeus Stout

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday School 10am

Sunday Worship 11am

Wednesday Evening Children . . 6pm

Wednesday Evening Adult . 6:30pm

visit www.12thstreetbaptist.net for all upcoming special events

WILL YOU ACCEPT CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL SAVIOR TODAY?

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

There is none righteous no not one.

ROMANS 3:10

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

ROMANS 6:23

*But God demonstrated His love toward us, in that, while we were
still sinners, Christ died for us.*

ROMANS 5:8