

# Parenting with PURPOSE

## MISSION AGENTS OF GRACE



### Unit 1.1: God is our Savior

Even though we were sinners who deserved eternal death, God loved us and made a way for us to be right with Him. If we accept His offer of salvation, our sins are forgiven and we have a new life in Him.

**Memory Verse:** Titus 3:4-5

#### Lesson Objectives:

- **WE NEED A SAVIOR.** Understand that they are born sinners. Their sin separates them from God and must be punished.
- **GOD LOVES US.** Believe that God loved us even when we were sinners.
- **GOD SENT JESUS TO BE OUR PUNISHMENT.** Know that because of God's love and mercy, He sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sin.
- **GOD IS OUR SAVIOR.** Recognize that if they accept God's offer of salvation, their sins are forgiven, they are made new in Christ and the Holy Spirit lives in them. Rejoice that God is their Savior and that they are freed from their sin.

#### Talk about it:

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

- What has God done as our Savior?
- Why do you need to be saved? Why did God choose to save you?
- If someone asked you how he or she can be saved by God, what would you say?

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

- When we are saved, we become a new creation. What does that mean?
- What does the Holy Spirit do to us when we are saved?
- How would you explain what it means to be saved to a friend?



#### Encouragement for you:

There are people who spend their days rescuing and helping others. But there is something that we all need to be rescued from — our sin. God is the only one who can save us from our sin. Without His mercy you would not have a relationship with Him, you would not have a purpose in your life and you would not have the promise of eternal life. God loves you more than you can imagine. Do you thank God for His salvation? Have you shared with your child about when you accepted Jesus as Savior?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Who We Are/Who God Is

What You'll Need:  
Bible, white board, dry erase markers

Make 2 columns on the white board:

1. Who We Are
2. Who God Is

Talk to your kids about characteristics of people (man) and God. List your ideas on the white board.

Look up and read Revelation 4:11. Share these concepts:

1. God is the Creator. He made all things. Because He created all things, He has authority over everything.
2. God created man to have a relationship with Him.
3. On the white board add:
  - a. Created by God (Who We Are)
  - b. The Creator (Who God Is)

Look up and read Romans 5:12. Share these concepts:

1. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman God created, sinned by disobeying God.
2. Because they sinned, all people born after them are sinners.
3. God is holy and without sin. Our sin separates us from God.
4. No matter how good you try to be, we are all sinners. The punishment for our sin is death.
5. On the white board add:
  - a. Sinners (Who We Are)
  - b. Holy (Who God Is)

Look up and read Titus 3:4-5. Share these concepts:

1. God is good and kind. He loved us even when we were sinners.
2. God saved us, not because we were good or did good things. He saved us because of His mercy or His kindness.
3. We are saved because Jesus took the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross for us. His blood washes away our guilt and our sin, just like water washes away the dirt on our skin. We are made new in Christ!
4. When Jesus becomes our Savior, we are given the Holy Spirit. He is always with us and He will help us make good choices that please God.
5. On the white board add:
  - a. Saved (Who We Are)
  - b. Savior (Who God Is)

Look up and read Romans 10:9-10. Share these concepts:

1. God's offer of salvation is free to anyone!
2. We have to accept His offer to save us. We do so by believing that we are sinners and that Jesus died for our sins and rose again.



## Unit 1.2: God is our Hope

Those who have trusted Jesus as Savior can rest in the truth that even when we face trials, God is always with us. We have hope that He will work all things to His purpose.

**Memory Verse:** Romans 15:13

### Lesson Objectives:

- WE WILL FACE TRIALS AND DISCOURAGEMENT. Understand that we will all face pain, discouragement and suffering.
- GOD IS OUR HOPE. Understand that because God is our hope, we can look forward to the things He has promised, believe that God offers us joy and peace when we hope in Him, and determine to hope in God in a specific struggle they are facing.
- GOD LOVES US. Rejoice in who God is and praise Him for His promises of protection, guidance and salvation.

### Talk about it:

- What does the Bible say hope is?
- What does it mean that God is our hope?
- What can you do this week to help remember and focus on the hope you have in God rather than on your circumstances?



### Encouragement for you:

As a parent, it can be easy to lose heart and become discouraged. But we can have hope because God has shown us over and over in the Bible that He is faithful and will do what He says He will do. Do you trust in the hope God gives you or are you focused on the circumstances surrounding you? Turn to the Bible and look for God to give you a confidence in His plan, a peace that He is in control and a certainty that He will keep His promises!

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: David's Hope, My Hope

### What You'll Need:

Bible, papers, colored pencils, crayons or markers

**PREP:** Be prepared to give a summary of David facing Goliath (1 Samuel 17) or David fleeing Saul (1 Samuel 24). Bookmark Psalm 33:20-22, Psalm 62:5-6, Psalm 43:5 and Titus 2:13 in your Bible.

**STEP 1:** Share that David was a man from Bible times who loved God with all his heart and wrote many of the Psalms. Explain that David faced many dangerous situations, but God was always with him. Briefly summarize the events in 1 Samuel 17 and 1 Samuel 24.

Share these key concepts:

- David faced a giant, even when all the other soldiers of his people cowered in fear. He knew that God was with him and that God would give him the victory (1 Samuel 17).
- King Saul was jealous of David and tried many times to kill him. David and the men who followed him were on the run for many years as Saul pursued them and tried to kill them. Yet David trusted in God and knew that God would protect him. His hope was in God alone (1 Samuel 24).

**STEP 2:** Give each child a piece of paper and colored pencils or markers. Encourage them to draw a picture representing what God is like based on the following verses: Psalm 33:20-22, Psalm 62:5-6 and Psalm 43:5. Read each verse out loud and give them some time to draw before continuing to the next verse.

**STEP 3:** Ask them to share their drawings.

Share these key concepts:

- God is our help and shield. Even though life won't always be happy, we can hope in Him because He will ALWAYS help us.
- God is our rock, fortress and salvation. When we are frustrated or discouraged, we can trust in the promise that God NEVER changes. He will help us through every situation we face when we hope in Him.
- Even when we are sad or hurt, we can praise God, knowing that all of His promises will come true. He loves us, and He will work everything out for our good and His glory.

**STEP 4:** Share that not only can they hope in who God is and what He will do for them, there is one HUGE promise they can look forward to. Read Titus 2:13.

Share these key concepts:

- We have eternal life through Jesus Christ when we trust Him as Savior.
- Jesus is now in heaven, preparing a place for His followers (John 14:1-3).
- Jesus will one day come back for us. What an amazing time that will be, when we get to see Him face to face and live FOREVER with God in heaven!
- That is our hope. That is the promise that will come true, no matter what trials we face, no matter how many hurts we feel. Our God loves us. He is our hope forever.



### Unit 1.3: God the Son is our Advocate

Jesus is our advocate before God. When we trust Jesus as Savior, we can pray to God – anytime or anywhere – and be confident that He will hear and answer our prayers based on His plans for us.

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 2:1

#### Lesson Objectives:

- **WE ARE SINNERS.** Recognize that we are sinners. Because of our sins, we are separated from God.
- **WE HAVE A SAVIOR.** Understand that if we trust in Jesus as Savior, Jesus is our advocate. He goes to God on our behalf.
- **WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE.** Believe that Jesus is our go-between for God and us. Only through Christ we can have access to God.
- **WE CAN COME BOLDLY BEFORE GOD.** Pray about needs in their lives, trusting that Jesus is their advocate with God the Father.

#### Talk about it:

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

- What is an advocate? What is one way that Jesus is our advocate?
- Why can Jesus speak to God for us?
- What did Jesus promise his disciples that He would send them?

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

- When do you receive the Holy Spirit?
- In what way do you need God to be your advocate right now?
- When can you go to God? What does He give you when you go to Him?



#### Encouragement for you:

Parenting can be lonely and exhausting. It is comforting to know that as a believer you have an advocate who defends you, is always with you and gives you grace and mercy when you are in need of it. Be encouraged! God will provide you with what you need when you need it. He will be with you, support you and speak for you. Take a minute now to ask God to help you be the parent He has called you to be.

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity:

### What You'll Need:

Bible, chairs, poster board, markers, 3x5 cards, whiteboard, dry erase markers

**PREP:** Place a chair in the front of the room. Write each of the following words on a separate sheet of poster board: Judge, Advocate, Holy Spirit. Place the first poster board on the empty chair. Give the other two posters to two different people. Place another chair off to the side.

**STEP 1:** Tell kids they are the suspects in the courtroom and that they represent all men and women. Every person is on trial because of sin. (Point to the empty chair. Place the "Judge" poster on the chair.) Explain that God is the ultimate judge of all mankind.

Share these concepts:

- Our creator God is holy. That means that He has never sinned and He cannot be around sin (Isaiah 6:3). All sin must be punished (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23).
- Sin entered the world because of the sin of one man (Romans 5:12). Since Adam, all people are born sinners, separated from the holy God (Isaiah 59:2). We cannot be right with Him or be good enough on our own to avoid the punishment we all deserve because of sin (Isaiah 64:6).

**STEP 2:** Ask the person holding the Advocate poster to turn around. Share these key concepts:

- An advocate is someone who speaks or intercedes for someone else. Because of our sin, we needed someone to be our advocate before God on our behalf (1 Timothy 2:5).
- Jesus is God's Son. He is God. He came to earth, lived a perfect life and died to take the punishment we deserve for our sin (John 3:16).
- Jesus now lives in heaven. When we trust in Him as Savior, our sin and our guilt are washed away. God no longer sees us as sinners. He sees the righteousness, or goodness of Jesus Christ, cover us (Romans 5:1).
- As our advocate, Jesus stands before God and intercedes, or goes between, God and us. He speaks to God on our behalf (1 Timothy 2:5).

**STEP 3:** Explain that we are free from the punishment of sin and hell because of our advocate. God gave us even more than our advocate, Jesus Christ. Take the empty chair and put it with the rest of the family. Ask the person with the Holy Spirit sign to sit down in the chair with the family and hold up the sign so everyone can see it. Share these key concepts:

- The Holy Spirit is fully God.
- God sent the Holy Spirit to be a helper, a comforter and a counselor to always be with believers while we are here on earth (John 14:26).
- The moment we trust in Jesus as our Savior, God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us. His job is to encourage us, to help us and to teach us what the Bible says (John 14:26).

**Step 4:** Stand before the "Judge" but behind the "Advocate." Read Hebrews 4:16. Share these concepts:

- We can go before God in prayer with confidence because our advocate is interceding for us in front of God.
- God promises to give us mercy and grace when we come before Him.

**Step 5:** Remind them that if they have trusted Jesus as Savior, they have an advocate who is before God right now. They also have God the Holy Spirit living inside them, ready to encourage and help them anytime they need it.



### Unit 1.4: God is our Strength

God is our strength. We can trust in Him to be our refuge and help in times of trouble.

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 46:1

#### Lesson Objectives:

- **GOD IS POWERFUL.** Recognize that God is our strength and study how God's strength is revealed in the Bible.
- **WE DO NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID.** Understand that they can rely on God's strength when they are afraid.
- **GOD GIVES US STRENGTH.** Identify one area in which they need God's strength.
- **WE ARE WEAK.** Praise God for His strength to help us overcome areas of personal weakness.

#### Talk about it:

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

- What has God done in your life to show you that He is strength?
- When would be a time that you would need to know that God is your strength?
- Why do I not need to be afraid?

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

- What has God promised to give us when we are in trouble?
- What is going on in your life right now that you need God's strength to help you with?
- Is there a friend who needs to know that God is his or her strength? What could you tell him or her to encourage him or her?



#### Encouragement for you:

When we think about someone's strength, we often think about physical strength. God is infinitely powerful — not just physically strong. Do you ever feel anxious about parenting your child? God wants you to depend on Him emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. You can trust God because He is bigger and stronger than you can imagine. You can be confident that God will be your refuge and strength. How do you need to lean into God's strength today?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Which is Stronger?

What You'll Need:

Paper towels, water, plastic container, spray bottle, quarters

**PREP:** Purchase a roll of high-quality paper towels and a roll of generic, low-quality paper towels. Remove the packaging for both rolls. Gather a handful of quarters and a medium-size container. Fill the spray bottle with water. Place the container, spray bottle, paper towels and quarters on a table.

**STEP 1:** Ask two volunteers to test the strength of the two different brands of paper towels. Give one volunteer one section of the low-quality paper towels. Have that person hold the paper towel by its edges over the plastic container. Have the second volunteer spray water on the middle of the paper towel five times, then add quarters to the middle of the paper towel, two at a time, until the paper towel rips from the weight. Keep track of the number of quarters it took to break the towel.

**STEP 2:** Repeat the process with the second brand of paper towels.

Ask the following questions:

- Which was the stronger roll of paper towels? Why?
- Was this experiment an accurate way to measure the strength of the paper towels? Why or why not?
- What would have happened if we had tried to place a three-pound dumbbell on the damp paper towel instead of the quarters?

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- Just like the water and the weight of the quarters tested the strength of the paper towels, we will have times in our lives when we feel weak because of struggles we face or circumstances that we cannot control.
- But we are not alone. God is our refuge and strength. He is always with us and promises to help us in times of trouble.
- An advocate has an opportunity to change someone's opinion of someone or something.
- Jesus Christ is our advocate. He goes before God on our behalf and through Him we have an opportunity to be right with God!
- God is a stronghold or strength in times of trouble (Psalm 37:39, Psalm 46:1). We can trust Him when life seems out of control.
- God is our shield (Psalm 18:1-2, 28:7). When we are tempted to sin, or when other people hurt us, we can turn to Him. He will protect and defend us when we trust in Him.
- God's strength gives us victory. When we trust in God's strength, we can face anything that comes our way (Habakkuk 3:19, Philippians 4:13).
- God is our rock. When life seems uncertain and we don't know what will happen, we can trust that God is our rock and our salvation. He does not change and His promises will ALWAYS come true (Psalm 62:7). We can trust that whatever happens is for our good and God's glory.

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is our strength.

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## Unit 1.5: God is our Peace

God is our peace. In a chaotic world of uncertainties and struggles, we can experience a peace that is beyond understanding through Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** John 16:33

### Lesson Objectives:

- WE NEED PEACE. Understand that believers will face trials and difficult circumstances and recognize that we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ.
- WE CAN EXPERIENCE PEACE, EVEN IN TRIALS. Believe that Jesus had victory over sin, death and the struggles of the world.
- WE CAN ONLY HAVE PACE WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. Recognize that we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ; claim God's peace by trusting Jesus as Savior, relying on the Holy Spirit and claiming the promises in the Bible and trust in God's peace to face a struggle in their lives.

### Talk about it:

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders

- What did Jesus promise to His disciples?
- What does God's peace look like?
- When is a time that you would need God's peace in your life?

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

- What keeps us from having and knowing God's peace?
- What happens when you trust God and are thankful that He is in control?
- What is going on in your life right now that you need God's peace for?



### Encouragement for you:

Life as a parent can often be chaotic and feel out of control. We all want peace in our lives, but trying to find real peace outside of God doesn't help us. God hasn't promised to remove the chaos, but He has promised to give you His peace no matter what your circumstances are. His peace is victorious and surpasses all understanding. God's peace is given freely to believers who have called on His name. Are you resting in God's peace this week?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Peaceful or Stressful

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

**STEP 1:** Point to one wall in the room and tell kids that side of the room is peaceful. Point to the opposite wall and tell kids that side of the room is stressful. Tell kids to run to the side of the room that best describes the following situations:

Playing with kittens or puppies, holding a screaming baby, drawing or reading, forgetting to do your homework, riding a scary roller coaster, listening to your favorite music, fighting with your brother or sister, handing out with your friends

**STEP 2:** Brainstorm other things that could be stressful or peaceful.

**STEP 3:** Ask, "What makes certain situations stressful?" Share these key concepts:

- No one enjoys chaos. It brings a sense of frustration and stress.
- Many people search for peace, trying new ideas or searching for personal enjoyment.
- No matter how hard we try to seek peace in this world, there will always be circumstances beyond our control that threaten to disrupt our peace.
- True, lasting peace starts with a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. God's peace will bring joy and comfort in any situation we might face.

**STEP 4:** Read or recite this week's memory verse, John 16:33. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase. Share these key concepts:

- Only through Jesus Christ can we have peace with God (Romans 5:1).
- Christ reminded His disciples that they would have difficulties and troubles happen to them.
- Even though they would face struggles and discouragement, they could still have joy in knowing that Jesus would be with them. Our relationship with Him brings us peace.
- Peace comes from studying God's Word (Psalm 119:165).
- Peace comes when we rejoice in the Lord and remain calm in difficult circumstances (Philippians 4:4-5).
- Peace comes when we do not worry. When we are struggling with a situation, it is hard to not focus on our struggle or spend our time trying to figure out how we can get through it. God's Word is clear: We need to cast our cares on God and not be anxious or focused on those problems (1 Peter 5:7, Philippians 4:6).
- Peace comes when we pray. When we take our concerns to God, we can do so with an attitude of thanksgiving, knowing that God will work out all things for our good (Philippians 4:6, Romans 8:28).
- Peace comes when we focus our thinking on things that honor God. When we think on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and commendable, we please God.

**STEP 5:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is our peace.

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## Unit 1.6: God is... Review

God's character teaches us who He is and shows us who we are. God is our Savior. He is our hope and our advocate. He is our strength and our peace. We know that our amazing God is always with us. We can trust Him in every situation we face.

**Memory Verses:** Titus 3:4-55, Romans 15:13, 1 John 2:1, Psalm 46:1, John 16:33

### Lesson Objectives:

- Remember the five character traits of God studied in the "God Is..." unit.
- Recognize how God personally works in their lives based on who He is.
- Determine to trust in the truths of who God is during both good and bad times.
- Rejoice that God is their Savior, hope, advocate, strength and peace.

### Talk about it:

- Why can you call God our Savior?
- What is one reason that you can say that God is your hope?
- How has God been an advocate in your life?
- What is one thing that you need God's strength for right now?
- What does it mean that God is your peace?



### Encouragement for you:

As you grow in your understanding of who God is, you will grow in your trust, obedience and love for Him. Remember that God is our Savior. When we have a relationship with God, He will be our hope, our advocate, our strength and our peace. Pray that God would encourage you and continue to give you a deeper understanding Himself!

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: True Statements

What You'll Need:  
Squishy ball

**STEP 1:** Have everyone stand in a circle. One person stands in the middle with a squishy ball. Tell them that you will randomly toss a ball to one of them. They need to catch the ball and immediately share a true statement (e.g., it is raining outside, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I play the piano, etc.) and then toss it back to you. Do this several times around the circle.

**STEP 2:** Ask, "How do we know all these statements are true?"

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- Throughout this unit, we have learned key statements about God.
- God is our Savior, hope, advocate, strength and peace. We can trust in these truths of who God is, no matter what happens in our lives.

**STEP 4:** Review the key concepts from this unit:

- God loved us even when we were sinners and He provided a way to save us (Romans 5:8). When we accept God's offer of salvation through Jesus' death, our sins are forgiven, we are made new in Christ and the Holy Spirit lives in us to help us make good choices (1 John 1:7, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 14:26).
- God is our hope. He promises to protect, guide and save us (Psalm 62:5-6, Psalm 33:20-22). He offers us joy and peace when we hope in Him. Even when we face trials and discouragement, we can abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit in us (Romans 15:13).
- Jesus, who is fully God, goes before God on our behalf (1 John 2:1). Our sins are forgiven through Christ and God sees our righteousness through Jesus (Romans 5:1). We can pray about anything, anytime and be confident that God hears our prayers because Jesus is our advocate (Hebrews 4:15-16).
- The all-powerful God promises to always be with us (Isaiah 41:10). No matter what struggles we face, we can trust in Him (Psalm 56:3). He is bigger and stronger than anything we will ever face (Psalm 147:5).
- We will face trials and difficult circumstances, but we can rejoice knowing that Jesus had victory over sin, death and the struggles of the world (John 16:33). We can experience God's peace in difficult times when we are thankful and trust that God is always in control (Philippians 4:4-7).

**STEP 5:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of remembering these true character traits of God.