

# Parenting with **PURPOSE**



## Unit 4.1: Faith

Faith is believing in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. Faith is the first step in a relationship with God. After we are saved, we grow and show God our faith by our actions.

**Memory Verse:** Hebrews 11:6

### Lesson Objectives:

- Understand what faith is and that there are examples of faith in the Bible.
- Recognize that faith is necessary for salvation, but continues after we accept Jesus as Savior.
- Realize that their growing faith will help them trust God more with whatever they face and can impact other people as well.



### Talk about it:

- How would you describe faith?
- What would you have felt if you were on the boat with the disciples when Jesus calmed the storm?
- When is it the most difficult to trust God and have faith?
- How can you grow in your faith?
- What circumstance is God using to help you learn something about trusting Him?

### Encouragement for you:

This week the kids are memorizing Hebrews 11:6, a verse that tells us just how important faith is. Faith involves both belief and willingness to live based on those beliefs. As you think about your week, what circumstances in your own life could use more active faith in God? Ask Him to help you to believe in Him in the middle of those circumstances!

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Faith in What We Cannot See

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

STEP 1: Ask the following questions. Be ready to offer suggestions in parentheses as needed.

- What do we know about earth's gravity? (It keeps us from floating away into space; if we drop something, it will fall to the floor; if we throw something in the air, it will fall back to the ground, etc.)
- What do we know about electricity? (If we plug something in an outlet, it will turn on; if we turn on a light switch, it will light the room; etc.)
- Have you ever seen electricity?
- Have you ever seen gravity?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- We believe in electricity and gravity, even though they cannot be seen, because we see the effects and the outcomes they produce (e.g. we can turn on the lights, we can jump in the air and know we will return to the ground, etc.).
- We often place our confidence or trust in something without thinking twice, like knowing that flipping on a light switch will give light to a dark room.
- In a similar way, when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we trust or have confidence that God will keep His promise of eternal life and a relationship with Him because of our trust in Jesus.
- Faith is believing in Jesus and what He has done for us.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of faith.

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## Unit 4.2: Prayer

God wants us to have a relationship with Him. One way this relationship grows is when we talk to God and listen to God. This is called prayer.

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:14

### Lesson Objectives:

- Understand that praying is a conversation with God.
- Realize they can pray anywhere at any time.
- Think of specific things they can pray about in their lives.
- Understand that God promises to hear and answer according to what He knows is best.



### Talk about it:

- What is prayer?
- God already knows what you are thinking and feeling. Why do you think He wants you to tell Him?
- What do you think it means to pray for God's will instead of just what we want?
- What are some things that this lesson helped you realize you could pray about?
- God wants you to pray for different people in your life. Who are the most difficult people to pray for?
- Where and when can you pray?

### Encouragement for you:

This week the kids are learning about prayer. Their memory verse, 1 John 5:14, tells us that when we pray God hears us. As you pray to God during your week, be encouraged that He hears you!

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Common Phrases

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

STEP 1: Give the following scenarios and ask what phrases kids their age might say or ask in each situation. Encourage them to respond vocally with expression.

You can't find your soccer uniform.

Your brother borrowed something without asking and now you can't find it.

You want to play your new game, but you need your parent's permission first.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions after kids have responded:

- Why do you have different conversations instead of the same conversation all the time?
- What is the purpose of conversations?
- Why is communication with others necessary?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We get to know others better when we communicate with them.
- Our thoughts and feelings change depending on our situations, and it is important to share them with the ones we care about.
- God wants us to communicate our thoughts and feelings with Him. We communicate with Him through prayer.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of prayer.

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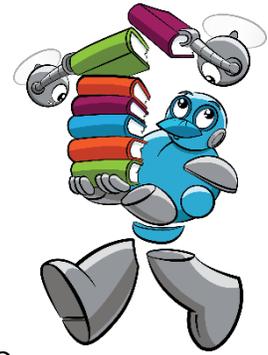
## Unit 4.3: Studying God's Word

Reading and studying God's Word, the Bible, is an important part of our relationship with God. As we study what is in God's Word, God will speak to us and we will grow in understanding and faith.

**Memory Verse:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### Lesson Objectives:

- Know that the Bible is God's communication to us.
- Believe God's Word is practical for our lives.
- Recall that God's Word is truth and contains everything we need to know Him better.
- Understand the importance of studying God's Word so we can know Him more.



### Talk about it:

- If you had to tell someone everything important they needed to know about life, what's one thing you would be sure to say?
- What are the four reasons you wrote down in Explore that answer why God gave us the Bible? What do you think they mean?
- Why do you think God included so many stories in the Bible instead of just giving us a bunch of lists of what we need to know?
- Which stories would you like to read in the Bible?
- What are some practical ways you can work on making reading and studying God's Word a habit?

### Encouragement for you:

As the kids learn about studying the Bible this week, we as parents can be encouraged as well that it provides everything we need for life (as it says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17), including the challenging work of parenting. What do you need to look for help from in the Bible this week?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Spot the Errors

What You'll Need:

White board and dry erase markers (or pencil and paper)

**PREP:** Before you start, write one or more of the examples from Step 1 below on the board. (Note: Make sure kids will be able to easily spot the errors of the problems, but make them challenging enough that it takes them a moment or two to find them.)

**STEP 1:** Ask kids if they can spot the errors on the board. Offer hints as needed. Ask those who spot the errors to correct them.

*Examples of things you could write:*

- A Bible verse with several misspelled words.
- A multiplication problem with an error.
- A triple digit addition problem with an error.

**STEP 2:** After errors have been located and corrected, ask the following questions.

- How long did it take you to find the mistakes?
- Why were you able to locate the mistakes?
- What helped you know that it was a mistake?

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

- Studying is a step above reading, or simply knowing about something. Studying requires understanding a subject or repeating the same math concepts over and over until you can confidently explain the subject and complete the problems correctly.
- We have been given the very words of God, written just for us! It is important for us to study God's Word so that we can confidently understand His plan for us and then share it with others.

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying and obeying God's Word.

# Parenting with **PURPOSE**



## Unit 4.4: Worship

God created us and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and offer us salvation. In return, we should worship Him in everything we do. Worship is anything we do to show God we love Him and how important He is to us.

**Memory Verse:** John 4:23-24

### Lesson Objectives:

- Know that worship is anything we do to show God we love Him.
- Realize worship includes praising God, singing, reading our Bibles and praying, living for Him and telling others how amazing He is.
- Think of a way they can worship God this week.



### Talk about it:

- What are you grateful for that God has done for you?
- Worshiping God includes being available to do what God wants us to do. What kinds of things could this mean for someone your age?
- Worshiping God is having an attitude that shows God how much we love Him and how important He is to us. What might distract you from worshiping God?
- What is a way you can worship God this week?

### Encouragement for you:

This week's lesson on worship can be an encouraging one for us as parents too. Jesus says in John 4:23-24 that God wants to be worshiped in spirit and truth. As parenting brings us to the end of ourselves, we can become honest with God about how much we need Him. When we acknowledge Him for who He is, we are worshiping Him. In what ways this week can you worship God for who He is?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Thank You Very Much!

### What You'll Need:

Individually packaged snacks or treats, napkins (if needed)

**PREP:** Purchase snacks for the kids. Have napkins available, if needed. Set the treats out before kids enter the room.

**STEP 1:** Share that you want to show them kindness. Encourage them to enjoy the snack. Note any responses of gratitude or appreciation they show to you. While kids are enjoying their snack, ask the following questions:

- What were you thinking when you saw the snacks?
- Was it a requirement for me to give you the treats? (Guide kids to understand that you didn't have to do this for them; it shows your care and love for them.)
- How did you feel when you received the treats?

**STEP 2:** Share these key concepts:

- When someone does something nice for us, we are thankful, excited and happy.
- We respond to the kindness by letting them know we care and are thankful for them.
- Worship is a response to God's goodness and kindness to us. As we realize what He has done for us, we respond by showing God we love Him.

**STEP 3:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of worship.

# Parenting with **PURPOSE**



## Unit 4.5: Serving

We are being a servant of God when we are doing whatever He has asked us to do. Part of serving is choosing to make others more important than ourselves. Jesus Christ is our greatest example of what it means to be a servant.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 20:28

### Lesson Objectives:

- Study Jesus' example of servanthood.
- Recognize that being a servant means to humbly put others' wants and needs before their own.
- Evaluate their attitude towards being a servant.



### Talk about it:

- What do you think it means to serve others?
- How do we put the needs of others in front of our own needs?  
Is this hard or easy?
- How would you explain why Jesus is the greatest example of what it means to be a servant?
- Do you have a favorite way to serve other people? If so, what is it?
- It is easier to expect others to serve us sometimes. How can you serve someone this week at home?

### Encouragement for you:

As the kids learn this week about serving, they will be looking at Jesus' example of coming to serve, not be served, as it states in Matthew 20:28. You as a parent are already living out this verse in how you meet his or her needs, even at the expense of your own. In the middle of your parenting moments this week, take encouragement that you are following Jesus Christ as you serve your child and teach him or her to serve others.

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: To Serve or Not To Serve

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

STEP 1: Give kids the following scenarios:

- Mom asks you to take out the trash while you are playing a game.
- Your little brother wants you to help him build his new Lego® set. You want to read a book.
- Mom asks you to unload the dishwasher after dinner. You want to go and relax.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What choice do you have in the scenarios above?
- To whom do you have the opportunity to show kindness and love in the scenarios above?
- What do you have to give up in order to show kindness toward that person?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Doing something kind for others is an example of being a servant. Being a servant is a deliberate choice we make.
- Being a servant requires us to be humble.
- The greatest example of a servant is Jesus Christ.
- We serve others when we choose to love them as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39), and put their needs and wants ahead of our own (Philippians 2:3-4). This often requires sacrifice (giving up something that we want) on our part, but we must always remember Christ's sacrifice for us (Ephesians 5:2).
- Following Christ's example of being a servant strengthens our relationship with God as we seek to glorify Him with our lives (1 Corinthians 10:31).

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids recognize the importance of serving others.

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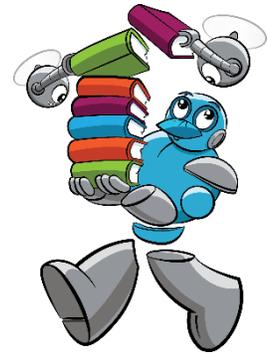
## Unit 4.6: Fellowship

Fellowship is being in caring and supportive relationships with other Christians. We are part of God's family and when we are in loving, healthy relationships with other Christians everyone will know we are disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:1-3

### Lesson Objectives:

- Define fellowship as our relationships with believers.
- Recognize our role as part of God's family.
- Understand the importance of unity and fellowship in God's family.
- List characteristics of fellowship among believers.
- Think about what they can do to encourage good fellowship with other believers.



### Talk about it:

- What do you think it means to be a part of the family of God?
- If you are a Christian, you are called to fellowship and to live at peace with other believers. What makes this hard?
- Fellowship means rejoicing with others when something good happens and being there for someone having a hard time. How can you encourage a friend who is a believer?
- Whom in the family of God can you show God's love to today?
- Can you think of a person whose loving attitude shows that they belong to Jesus?

### Encouragement for you:

This week's memory verses, Ephesians 4:1-3, gives a high and wonderful standard on how we should treat each other. These standards are possible as we rely on God to love others through us, and that includes loving our kids. When you find yourself in challenging moments this week with your child, ask for God to love them through you!

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Family Ties

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

STEP 1: Give your kids a challenge to see if they can come up with the correct names we often give to the following relationships. The answers are in parenthesis.

*Names to Guess:*

- Female sibling (sister)
- Male sibling (brother)
- Mom's sister (aunt)
- Dad's brother (uncle)
- Aunt's children (cousins)
- Your mom's cousin's kids (second cousins)
- Your second cousin's kid (second cousin once removed)

STEP 2: After kids have tried to figure out the relationship names, ask the following questions:

- How do you define family?
- What is the most important thing about family to you?
- What is the hardest thing about being in a family?
- What is the best thing about your family?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- When we accept Jesus as Savior, we are adopted into God's forever family.
- God expects those in His family to love one another, share the good news, and glorify Him.
- Fellowship is our relationships with believers.

STEP 4: Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of fellowship in the family of God.

# Parenting with **PURPOSE**



## Unit 4.7: Witnessing

The word witness means “to give evidence.” We should be giving evidence of what Christ has done for us by the things we say and the way we live so others can see the truth and trust Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:16

### Lesson Objectives:

- Understand that witnessing is giving evidence to what God has done.
- Recognize the examples of effective witnesses in the New Testament.
- Understand that our lives give evidence of what God has done for us.
- Evaluate how they are personally being a witness in their lifestyles, words and actions.



### Talk about it:

- How would you describe the ways we can be an example to other people?
- Which way is the easiest for you to do? Which is the most difficult?
- When something (either good or bad) happens, how can you draw attention to God instead of yourself?
- How do you personally let the light of Jesus shine through you so that others can see who He is?

### Encouragement for you:

In Matthew 5:16, Jesus tells His followers to live in such a way that everyone will see the good that they do and give God the glory for all of it. This week, in your words and actions, be intentional about showing God through your life!

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Funny Story

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

**STEP 1:** Ask kids to think of a funny family story. Have them share their stories as time permits.

**STEP 2:** Ask the following questions:

- Why do you like to tell that story?
- Why is it special and unique to your family?
- How do you feel when others respond to your story?

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

- Sharing a story gives us the opportunity to tell others something about us or our family.
- Others can get to know us and our family better when we share or give evidence to the things that take place in our family, such as these funny stories.
- God asks us to give evidence or to tell what He has done for us. When we give evidence to what God has done for us, others can learn about God and see the truth that they need to accept Jesus as their Savior.
- We witness to others in our words AND our lifestyle. When our speech, actions and treatment of others give evidence to the Holy Spirit's ministry in our lives, others recognize the evidence of a changed life through Christ (Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 5:16, 1 Timothy 4:12).
- As others recognize the evidence of Christ in our lives, they, too, will want to choose to follow Him. When they accept Jesus as Savior, their excitement and joy causes others to notice, and then more people see the evidence of Christ.
- When we grow in our faith and our relationship with God, we will live a life that pleases Him. We will have love, joy, peace, compassion and patience (Galatians 5:22-23). As others see the evidence of what Christ did for us, our lights shine brightly for God, and others will be drawn to Him (Matthew 5:16).

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of witnessing with words, actions, and lifestyle.

# Parenting with **PURPOSE**



## Unit 4.8: Evidence Review

In this unit, the kids have learned about things that will help them grow as followers of Jesus. Faith, prayer, Bible study, worship, service, fellowship and witnessing are all important aspects to discipleship.

**Memory Verses:** Hebrews 11:6, 1 John 5:14, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 4:23-24, Matthew 20:28, Ephesians 4:1-3, Matthew 5:16

### Lesson Objectives:

- Highlight key truths from the Evidence unit.
- Realize their spiritual training is a life-long process, complete only when they reach heaven.
- Determine areas where they need to strengthen their spiritual training.
- Choose to grow in their relationship with God throughout the rest of their lives.



### Talk about it:

- How does our faith grow?
- What is praying?
- Why is studying God's Word important?
- What is one way to worship God?
- What is one way you can serve God?
- What is fellowship?
- What does it mean to witness?

### Encouragement for you:

Your child has just finished learning about so much about God, the Bible, redemption and ways to have an active faith. You have also been on a journey along with him or her and it's time to celebrate what God is doing in your life. As you look back, what is the one insight that you want to take with you?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: A Plan to Succeed

What You'll Need:

Whiteboard and whiteboard markers or paper and pencil

STEP 1: Write the following algebraic equation on the board.

$$x^3 + 1 \text{ and } (y^4x^2 + 2xy - y)/(x - 1) = 12$$

STEP 2: Explain to kids that this is an algebraic equation. Ask a volunteer to try to solve it while teaching the concepts used to the whole class. After a moment or two, ask the following questions:

- What would happen if your teacher expected you to complete this problem on the first day of school, without helping you at all?
- Why would it be unwise for a teacher to teach algebra before addition or subtraction?
- Why is it important for your teacher to have lesson plans and goals for your learning?

STEP 3: Share the following key concepts:

- Just as your teachers have a plan for your educational training, God has a plan for your spiritual training that will help you grow closer to Him.
- God's plan for your spiritual training and growth is outlined in the Bible.
- When we follow God's plan for spiritual growth, we will grow closer to Him, and we will become the successful people He created us to be.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of training in faith, prayer, studying God's Word, worship, serving, fellowship and witnessing.