



### Unit 3.1: I Am the Bread of Life

Jesus is the Bread of Life. He offers salvation to those who trust in Him as Savior and promises an eternal home in heaven where we will never be hungry or thirsty again.

**Memory Verse:** John 6:35

#### Lesson Objectives:

- JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD. Believe that Jesus is God's Son. Every word He spoke is true!
- JESUS TAUGHT US ABOUT HIMSELF AND WHY HE CAME TO EARTH. Understand that Jesus often used symbols or pictures to help people understand what He was teaching.
- JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE. Recognize that those who trust Him as Savior will spend forever with Jesus in heaven, where they will never get hungry or thirsty.
- Recognize that Jesus is always with them and will meet their needs.

#### Talk about it:

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

- Why did Jesus call Himself the Bread of Life?
- Do you believe that Jesus is the Bread of Life and the only way to receive eternal life?
- Who do you need to share that with?

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

- Have you chosen to follow Jesus like Peter? How can people see that in your life?
- How would you explain to a friend what it means that Jesus is the Bread of Life?
- When is it difficult to do what God wants you to do? Are there certain people you spend time with that make it hard?



#### Encouragement for you:

When we are hungry, we seek to eat something to be satisfied. If we have a problem, we go to someone who can help. Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life and challenges us to see Him not just as a miracle-worker. Jesus is the only one through whom we can receive eternal life and only He can fill our spiritual hunger and thirst. As you begin this "I Am" Unit with your child, pray that God would help both of you to see Jesus not just for what He can do for you, but foremost as your personal Savior and God.

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Bread of Life

### What You'll Need:

Bread, pitcher, water, paper cups, knife, napkins

**PREP:** Purchase several different types or styles of bread. Cut bread into bite-size portions. Fill a pitcher with water.

**STEP 1:** Encourage your kids to sample the different types of bread and drink a glass of water.

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

- Why is bread a common food?
- How long would this bread and this cup of water fill you up?
- Why would you need to eat or drink again after this snack?

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

- Bread and water are common foods in most cultures around the world. Bread is often a common symbol to represent being satisfied and nourished.
- When Jesus lived on earth, He compared Himself to symbols or common objects to help people understand who He was and what He came to do. In today's lesson, you will learn that Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life.
- Even though Jesus wasn't literally a loaf of bread, this picture helps us understand that He is the one who satisfies and nourishes our souls!

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 3.2: I am the Light of the World

Jesus is the Light of the World. When we trust Him as our Savior, His light changes our lives and shines so others can see Christ in us.

**Memory Verse:** John 8:12

### Lesson Objectives:

- WE ARE BORN IN DARKNESS. Recognize that we are born in the darkness of sin.
- JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Believe that Jesus is the Light of the World and came to offer His light to all people.
- HIS LIGHT CHANGES US. Understand that when we follow Him, His light dwells in us.
- WE BECOME HIS LIGHTS. Identify differences of walking in Christ's light vs. walking in darkness of sin. Choose to allow the light of Christ to change their lives.
- Follow Jesus, the Light of the World.

### Talk about it:

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

- What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the Light of the World?"
- Have you chosen to follow the Light of the World?
- How can you shine the light of Jesus to the world around you?

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

- What do you need to do to follow Jesus?
- Who in your life needs the light of Jesus?
- Who in your life shines the light of Jesus? What can you learn from him or her?



### Encouragement for you:

At times the sin and darkness of this world can feel overwhelming. But John 8:12 tells us that if we have trusted Jesus as Savior, we have the Light of the World in us. Jesus is the light that no darkness or sin can put out! With the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can shine the light of Jesus to everyone around us. How can you let the light of Jesus shine brighter in your life to your family and friends?

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## Family Activity: Darkness

### What You'll Need:

Chairs, tables, small items of furniture, candle, lighter, bright flashlight  
(optional: black garbage bags, tape)

**PREP:** Create a simple maze using chairs, tables, or other small items of furniture.

**Optional:** If your room is not completely dark without the lights, then hang garbage bags to cover the windows or doors so that it is completely dark.

**STEP 1:** Turn off the lights. Light the candle and explain to your kids that you have a maze set up in the corner of the room. Ask, "Would you feel confident to follow me through the maze if we only have this candle for our light? Why or why not?" Guide kids to see that it is dangerous to have such a small source of light to lead everyone through a maze.

**STEP 2:** Turn on the flashlight. Ask someone to follow you through the maze, using the flashlight. Ask, "What is the difference between the candle and the flashlight?"

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

- Light is vital for our lives.
- We often don't realize how much we need the light until we experience darkness.
- Jesus taught an important lesson about Himself by using the symbol of light. He is the Light of the World, and this light can change every life who chooses to believe in Him. Jesus helps us see that we need a relationship with God.

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Another option would be to put out items needed to bake cookies and begin to prepare them by candlelight. After a few minutes of stirring ingredients together, ask the following questions:

- How do you think these cookies would turn out?
- What was the biggest struggle the chef faced?
- Why is the proper light important in cooking?

Share the same key concepts above.

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 3.3: I am the Door

Jesus is the Door of the sheep. He is the only way we can enter into a right relationship with God.

**Memory Verse:** John 10:7

### Lesson Objectives:

- JESUS KNOWS HIS SHEEP. Know that all people are born sinners and are not right with God.
- WE CANNOT ENTER THE FOLD ON OUR OWN. Understand that there is nothing they can do on their own to be right with God.
- JESUS IS THE DOOR. Recognize that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life and died to take the punishment for sin.
- WE CAN BE SAFE FROM THE PUNISHMENT OF SIN. Believe that Jesus is the Door, the only way they can enter into heaven or have a right relationship with God.

### Talk about it:

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

- What is it that separates us from God?
- What is the only way to have a friendship or relationship with God?
- Who can you share the Gospel with this week and tell what Jesus Christ has done for you?

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

- What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the door?"
- What would you tell someone who said that there is more than one way to have a relationship with God? (Scripture is clear – Jesus is the ONLY way.)
- How would you explain the Gospel (the good news of Jesus) to a friend?



### Encouragement for you:

The sheepfold is a beautiful picture of our relationship with God. John 10:7 tells us that there is only one way to enter a relationship with God – through accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior. Once you have trusted in Jesus, you will begin to experience Him as your shepherd who takes care of you. When you feel attacked or discouraged, there is peace and safety in the shelter of the sheepfold. When was the last time you spent time being restored in the safety God provides?

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## Family Activity: What's Missing?

What You'll Need:

Animal cage/kennel (any size) OR picture of animals in cages (in a zoo, on a farm, etc.)

STEP 1: Display the cage or kennel (or pictures). Talk about what animal might live in the kind of cage or kennel you have. Talk about other kinds of animals and kinds of cages they might live in.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What is the purpose of the door on this cage?
- What might happen if the door was not latched correctly or if the door came off?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Animal pens need secure doors to protect the animals inside.
- The shepherd in Bible times actually was the door or the gate. He would sleep across the entrance so that no sheep would escape and become lost. The only way in or out was through the shepherd himself, who acted as the door or gate.
- Jesus compared Himself to a door of a sheepfold. In order for us to have a right relationship with God, we must enter in through Jesus, the door.

STEP 4: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus is the door.

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## Unit 3.4: I am the Good Shepherd

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He knows those who follow Him and He will lead, protect and care for those who belong to Him.

**Memory Verse:** John 10:14

### Lesson Objectives:

- JESUS IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD. Know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, that Jesus willingly died for us and when we trust Jesus as Savior, we belong to Him.
- HE PROTECTS US AND MEETS OUR NEEDS. Rejoice in the truth that Jesus loves, leads, protects, cares for and offers eternal life for those in His flock.
- HE GUIDES AND HELPS US. Trust the Good Shepherd to care for them through difficult circumstances.
- HE IS ALWAYS WITH US. Believe that no one can ever separate us from God.

### Talk about it:

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

- How do you become a follower of Jesus, the Good Shepherd?  
What can you do to get to know the Good Shepherd better?
- How has Jesus protected or guided you?
- How does Jesus want you to follow Him this week?

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

- When do you need to depend on and trust Jesus? How do we know we can trust the Good Shepherd?
- What situations or people can make it difficult to follow Jesus?
- How would you respond if someone didn't like what you had to say about Jesus?  
What could you say to that person?



### Encouragement for you:

Much like a shepherd cares for sheep, Jesus is the good shepherd who cares for His followers. You are a precious part of Jesus' flock! He has called you by name and John 10:14 tells us that He knows you intimately. As a believer, you can rest in the fact that you are held securely and eternally in His hand. How has Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shown up in your life by protecting, holding and guiding you?

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## Family Activity: A New Pet!

What You'll Need:  
Nothing

STEP 1: Ask kids to imagine they were going tomorrow to buy a new puppy. Ask, "What supplies would I need to buy to be ready for my new puppy?" (Suggested responses: food, dishes, leash and collar, a kennel, etc.)

Ask, "What responsibilities would you have with the new puppy?" (Suggested responses: feeding him, taking him outside, housetraining him, taking him to the vet, etc.)

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- Owning a pet is a huge responsibility. We have to feed and care for the animal and make sure they are safe and loved.
- In Bible times, a shepherd was a person who cared for sheep. It was the shepherd's responsibility to make sure the sheep were safe and that they had food and water. The sheep knew their shepherd and followed him.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He knows those who follow Him and He loves and cares for His sheep.

STEP 3: Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.





### Unit 3.5: I am the Resurrection and the Life

Jesus is resurrection and the life. Jesus conquered death and He promises all who trust Him eternal life in heaven with Him one day.

**Memory Verse:** John 11:25

#### Lesson Objectives:

- DEATH IS A RESULT OF SIN. Believe that we all deserve death because of sin.
- JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. Trust that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
- JESUS CAME TO CONQUER SIN AND DEATH. Understand that Jesus conquered death forever when He rose from the dead. Believe that if we trust in Jesus as Savior we will have eternal life.

#### Talk about it:

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

- What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?
- How did Jesus show Mary and Martha that He had power over death?
- Who in my life needs to hear that Jesus has power over death and sin?

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

- How would you have reacted to seeing Lazarus being raised from the dead?
- What did Jesus mean when He said that someone who believes in Him will never die? (John 11:26)
- Who will you tell this week that Jesus offers us eternal life? When will you see that person to tell them?



#### Encouragement for you:

Just as a plant cannot have life without sunlight, water, air and soil, we cannot have life apart from a relationship with God. Once you have accepted Jesus, you are truly alive! Life may still be difficult, but Jesus has given you hope and life! When people or circumstances are discouraging you, how can you cling to Jesus as your hope and source of life?

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## Family Activity: Resurrection and Life

What You'll Need:  
Paper and pens/pencils

STEP 1: Pretend you are Bible times reporters. They need to prepare a news brief based on the following passages of Scripture: John 11:17-25, John 11:38-43, John 20:11-18 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, their sin affected all of us. We are born sinners and everyone will experience death because death is a result of sin (Romans 5:12).
- There is nothing we could ever do on our own to get rid of our sin. But God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to earth. He is the only person who ever lived a perfect life. He took the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross (1 Peter 2:24).

STEP 3: Present the news reports for John 11:17-25 and John 11:38-43 and share the following key concepts:

- Jesus was good friends with Lazarus, Mary and Martha. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He did not immediately come and heal him.
- By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Martha was heartbroken that her brother had died.
- Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus' body lay. He cried because His friends were experiencing the reality of death and sin.
- Jesus called out for Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus came out, still wrapped in the cloths they had used to bury him.
- Jesus showed that He has victory over death when He raised Lazarus from the dead.

STEP 4: Present the news report for John 20:11-18 and share the following key concepts:

- After Jesus died on the cross, His body was placed in a tomb.
- Three days later, when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, she saw that the stone had been rolled away. Confused and surprised, she thought someone had taken Jesus' body.
- Finally she realized that Jesus really is alive! He had risen from the dead!

STEP 5: Present the news report for 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and share the following key concepts:

- Jesus promised that He will one day come for those who have trusted Him as Savior.
- Those who are alive will meet Jesus in the sky.
- Jesus will take us to live with Him forever.
- Whenever we are sad or know someone who is sad because of death, we can comfort one another with the promise that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If we trust Him as Savior, we have the promise of eternal life forever in heaven.

# Parenting with PURPOSE

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## Unit 3.6: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. He is the only way to be right with God. He is full of grace and truth and He offers those who trust in Him eternal life.

**Memory Verse:** John 14:6

### Lesson Objectives:

- JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN. Believe that Jesus is the only way to heaven.
- JESUS IS THE TRUTH. Understand that Jesus is truth. He is full of grace and truth and everything He says will come true.
- JESUS IS THE LIFE. Know that Jesus promises eternal life for all who trust Him as Savior.

### Talk about it:

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

- What is the only way to have a relationship with God?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the truth and the life?
- If you have accepted Jesus as Savior, what can you do this week to grow in your relationship with God?

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

- What would you tell someone Jesus meant when He said He is the way, the truth and the life?
- When life is uncertain where can you go to find answers? How can you do that?
- What would you tell someone who said that there is more than one way to have a relationship with God?



### Encouragement for you:

When issues or problems arise in life, who do you turn to first? When you are unsure how to deal with your child, where do you go for answers? Our world is full of people who claim to have all different kinds of answers, but the Bible is clear that Jesus is the only one with real truth and real answers. Life won't be easy. However, we can be comforted knowing that when we call on Jesus and look in God's Word, He will guide and show us His truth and we will find the answers we need.

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## Family Activity: Which Way?

What You'll Need:  
Paper, pencils

**STEP 1:** Give each person a paper and a pen or pencil. Encourage them to draw a map or write out directions from your home to your church, their school, the grocery store or a place they choose.

**STEP 2:** After a few minutes, have them share their maps or directions.

Ask the following questions:

- How confident are you that these are good directions?
- Do you think a person who has never been to our city before could find our church, your school or the grocery store based on your map or directions?
- What was the hardest part about drawing or writing these directions?

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

- You probably know the way to our church, your school or the grocery store from here, but someone who doesn't know where the area might have a hard time finding our church, your school or the grocery store based on your directions.
- There might be several different ways you could get there, but there is only **ONE WAY** for you to get to heaven — that is through Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life. No one could ever get to heaven without Him.

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

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## Unit 3.7: I am the True Vine

Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. When we remain connected to God by reading God's Word, praying and making good choices, we will glorify God and bear much fruit.

**Memory Verse:** John 15:5

### Lesson Objectives:

- JESUS IS THE TRUE VINE. Believe that Jesus is the vine, we are the branches and we are permanently connected to Christ when we trust Him as Savior.
- GOD, THE VINEDRESSER, PRUNES THE BRANCHES. Recognize that God removes things from our lives to help us become more like Christ.
- JESUS WANTS US TO ABIDE IN HIM. Commit to remaining close to God by studying the Bible and praying.
- JESUS WANTS US TO BEAR FRUIT. Allow God to work in your life so you bear fruit.

### Talk about it:

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

- What does bearing fruit look like? How can you bear much fruit?
- Can a branch grow without being attached to a vine? How do we grow to be more like Jesus?
- What can you do apart from God?

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

- God prunes things in our lives that keep us from growing to be more like Him. What kinds of things does God prune from your life?
- How does it feel when God takes things out of our lives?
- What might happen if you try to grow fruit and do good things without God?



### Encouragement for you:

It can be tempting to try to rely on our own strength. However, it doesn't take long to realize we are really not that strong. Our independence is not part of God's perfect plan. John 15:5 tells us that apart from God, we can do nothing. When you depend on God, He will do beyond anything you could imagine. Your attitudes and actions cannot save you from your sins, but your dependence on God will be a testimony to those around you. How are you abiding in God? How can others see evidence of your dependence on God?

**T&T Announcements**

## Family Activity: Vine Produce

### What You'll Need:

Fruits or vegetables grown on a vine, knife, napkins, vine (or picture of a vine)

**PREP:** Purchase several different types of fruits or vegetables that grow on vines (e.g., watermelon, melons, tomatoes, squash, pumpkin, grapes, kiwi, green beans, peas, cucumbers or passion fruit). Wash and cut the fruits or vegetables.

**STEP 1:** Encourage everyone to sample the fruits and vegetables. While they are eating, ask them to try to figure out what all the fruits and vegetables have in common. (*They all grow in vines.*)

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

- Many fruits and vegetables grow on vines. Vines are plants that grow with stems or branches. The vine is the source for nutrients and growth.
- The nutrients travel from the vine to the branch so that the branch bears fruit.
- Jesus said, "I am the Vine." Those who trust Him as their Savior are filled with His strength, and He helps them grow. They are like branches attached to the vine, Jesus, who bear fruit.

**STEP 3:** Use the pruning shears to cut off one or two branches from the vine (or show pictures).

Share the following key concepts:

- Often there will be a branch that doesn't grow like it should. It may have a disease, or it may not get enough nutrients.
- Branches that don't bear fruit need to be removed from the vine so that they don't waste the nutrients that could go to fruit-bearing branches.
- Jesus compared Himself to a vine and those who trust Him as Savior to branches. He is the One who nourishes us and gives us the ability to grow and bear fruit!

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that Jesus is the true vine.

# Parenting with PURPOSE



## Unit 3.8: I Am... Review

Understanding these key truths about who Jesus is and what He came to do helps us understand His love for us and recognize our need to trust in Him.

**Memory Verses:** John 6:35, John 8:12, John 10:7, John 10:14, John 11:25, John 14:6, John 15:5

### Lesson Objectives:

- Believe that Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches.
- Understand that we are permanently connected to Christ when we trust Him as Savior.
- Recognize that God removes things from our lives to help us become more like Christ.
- Commit to remaining close to God by studying the Bible and praying.
- Allow God to work in your life so you bear fruit.

### Talk about it:

- We all have the same choice to make ourselves. Do you believe that Jesus is the Bread of Life and the only way to receive eternal life?
- How can you shine the light of Jesus to the world around you?
- What is the only way that we can have a relationship with God?
- What is the one thing that Jesus has done for us as our Good Shepherd?
- What does Jesus Christ have power over?
- Why is Jesus the way?
- What is the fruit that we bear once we trust Jesus as Savior?



### Encouragement for you:

You and your child have spent the past weeks learning about Jesus. Learning more about Jesus can lead us to a new appreciation for what Jesus has done for us. When we consider the sacrifice that Jesus made and the incredible grace that He has shown, we grow in our understanding of God's great love for us and want to show grace and love to others. How can remembering Jesus' sacrifice help you in your relationships this week?

**T&T Announcements**



## Family Activity: Symbol Fun

What You'll Need:  
Sticky notes; pen/marker

**STEP 1:** Give each person a sticky note and a pen or a marker. Give them a few seconds to draw a common symbol on their sticky note without letting anyone else see. (Suggestions include an emoji, a math symbol, a famous logo, etc.) Encourage kids to stick the symbol on someone else's back. Make sure that each person has a symbol on his or her back.

**STEP 2:** Each person gets two minutes to ask questions to try to figure out the symbol on his or her back. **NOTE:** They must ask at least two questions before they can guess their symbols.

**STEP 3:** Share the following key concepts:

- Symbols are used to communicate an idea. They are used in advertising, social media, education and even literature!
- In Bible times, Jesus was often misunderstood as being a good teacher or a prophet. Many people did not understand who He really was.
- Jesus often used symbols or pictures to help people understand who He really was and what He came to do. This Unit covered seven symbols of who Jesus is. When we think of these symbols, we will remember who Jesus is and how much He loves us.

**STEP 4:** Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand that Jesus is the Bread of Life; the light; the door; the Good Shepherd; the resurrection and the life; the way, the truth and the life and the true vine.