



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

Hatred ruins relationships and separates me from others and from God. **Jesus' death and resurrection restores my relationships with God and others.**

Bible Words

For those who love God all things work together for good.
Romans 8:28

Fun Fact

The meaning of the Hebrew word that describes Joseph's coat is unclear and is only used in one other Bible verse (2 Samuel 13:18). Instead of colors, the robe may have had long sleeves or metal adornments. Jacob himself made it, perhaps by weaving (Genesis 37:3).

Sibling Peace

Let siblings solve their own conflicts, unless they become physical. Recognize and affirm each individual's uniqueness and gifts. Avoid comparisons.

Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 37

Oh yes! Joseph and his brothers argued and fought. Competitiveness, alliances, jealousy, and their father's favor fueled the feuds.

Jacob's twelve sons had four different mothers. Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife, birthed the youngest sons, Joseph and Benjamin. The Bible says Jacob gave Joseph a special coat to show his love. The eleventh son received a new garment instead of hand-me-downs! Can you imagine?

The Bible says that when the brothers saw their father's action, they hated Joseph and could not speak peacefully to him. This hatred led to actions that haunted the brothers for years. They sold Joseph into slavery and told their father a fierce animal ate him. Mourning consumed Jacob.

Yet God was at work. He used these circumstances to work good for many then, and He later brought His Son into the world from this family. Because God's Son Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, we have peace with God and with each other.

Sing

Sing this song to remind each other that our heavenly Father shows no favorites. He loves each of us as if there was only one of us.

Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell"

The Father loves us so. *(repeat)*

Pray, praise, and shout hooray! The Father loves us so.

More stanzas: Our God forgives our sins. / God helps us show His love.

Prayer

Lord God, work in our family. Give us love for You and for each other. Fill us with the Holy Spirit and His gifts: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

I sin when I do not want to live out my vocation or forget that God is with me in my troubles; these sins, like all sin, condemn me to eternal death.

Nevertheless, God is with me in all my troubles and offers me and all who sin His steadfast love and mercy for the sake of His Son, Jesus.

Bible Words

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 39:21

Vocation

Work or social roles God “calls” us to do by using the gifts, skills, and talents He gives us.

Dig Deeper

Want to find out more about God’s help in troubled times? Read **James 1** and **1 Peter 1** in the New Testament.

Joseph’s Troubles

Genesis 39

Joseph’s life took a dramatic turn when his brothers sold him as a slave. Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s guard in Egypt, bought him and the Lord gave Joseph success. Soon, Potiphar made Joseph overseer of his house and all he owned.

But Joseph ended up in jail after a dispute with Potiphar’s wife. Still, God did not abandon Joseph. God showed him steadfast love and gave him favor with the prison keeper, who put Joseph in charge of the prison. The Lord gave success to everything Joseph did.

From favorite son to lowly prisoner, Joseph’s life seemed off course. But God was still at work and He did not abandon Joseph.

We live in a sinful world and the Bible clearly says we will have troubles and trials. Sometimes, we wonder why God doesn’t intervene, but we don’t always see God’s work. The Lord promises to help all who call on Him (Psalm 50:15). And our God, who gave up His own Son for us, loves us. He will not abandon us. He answers prayer. He acts.

What Is a Vocation?

God is at work in the world through people, as we see in Joseph’s life. Each person serves others and the world as we use vocations the Lord gives us in our relationships, families, and communities. And yes, God even uses the vocations of unbelievers, such as the keeper of the prison.

Farmer, engineer, nurse, teacher, and politician are vocations, but a vocation may also be a role, such as parent, son, daughter, brother, sister, student, wife, and husband.

God wants us to use our vocations to share His love with others. With the Holy Spirit’s help, how can you serve the Lord and use your gifts in your vocations?

Prayer

Lord God, thank You for caring for us and for loving us. Keep us in Your grace, even in days of trouble, and help us trust You for all of our needs. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

My sin causes suffering for me and for my neighbor, and I cannot take care of it. **In His love, God takes care of my needs, both physical and spiritual, forgiving all my sins for the sake of Jesus, who suffered, died, and rose again for me.**

Bible Words

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Just Joking

Did you know there's tennis in the Bible?

Yes, Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Joseph Feeds Egypt

Genesis 40–41

Joseph's life twisted and turned more than an amusement park ride. Few people experience life as favorite child, slave, and national leader.

In today's lesson, Joseph, still in prison, used his God-given gift to interpret worrisome dreams of two imprisoned members of Pharaoh's household. The one restored member of Pharaoh's household forgot about Joseph until Pharaoh had two mysterious dreams no one could interpret.

Joseph told Pharaoh these dreams from God foretold seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. He recommended saving one-fifth of the crops in good years to provide food during the famine.

Impressed, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the crop storage and dispersal, second only to himself in all the land. Later, Joseph understood God brought him to Egypt for this purpose, to save many people, including his family (Genesis 45:7–9).

The Lord works in the world and in our lives. He brings good from all things, even famines, disasters, and His Son's death on the cross. God promises to care for us and never leave us. God keeps His Word. We can trust Him.

Eat Like an Egyptian

Declare an Egyptian food week and enjoy a different food from Ancient Egypt each day.

- honey ■ figs ■ watermelon ■ other melons
- leeks ■ onions ■ fish ■ cucumbers
- garlic ■ grapes ■ wheat bread ■ pomegranates
- barley ■ plums ■ cumin, dill ■ sesame, coriander

Prayer

Lord, thank You for all Your gifts, especially the food you provide for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

The sin I refuse to confess troubles my conscience and separates me from others and from God. **In His mercy, God invites me to confess my sins and promises to forgive them for Jesus' sake.**

Bible Words

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

Why are evil and suffering in this world?

Evil and suffering are in the world because of sin. But in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has demonstrated His power over sin and death. God in His almighty power and love causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him.

Question 108, *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, Copyright © 1986, 1991 CPH.

Joseph Forgives

Genesis 42–45; 50:15–21

Joseph and his brothers reunited after twenty-two years. Joseph revealed his identity after testing his brothers to see if they changed. They passed. He saw their love for their father and each other.

Joseph's brothers felt terrified when they realized the second most powerful man in Egypt, the man in charge of food distribution, was their brother. Guilt and shame overwhelmed them. Selling him into slavery and lying to their father about his death cost them much guilt and pain.

Joseph felt differently. He understood God sent him to Egypt to preserve life for his family and for many others. He forgave them. He loved them. And he brought them and their whole family to live in Egypt.

Later, after their father Jacob died, the brothers worried Joseph would take revenge. Instead, Joseph said, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). God gave Joseph insight to see the big picture and to understand God's work in his life.

Forgiveness Practice

It can be so difficult for some people to say, "I forgive you." But Christians, loved and redeemed by Jesus Christ through His sacrifice on the cross for our sins, know the sweet release of hearing those words from our pastor during worship or from another Christian.

In his letters, St. Paul teaches Christians how to live. (See Bible Words.) Forgiven, redeemed by the blood of Christ, God's love compels us to live differently from the world, to serve, love, and forgive in His name.

Home is a good place to practice new attitudes and actions. When people disagree or argue, talk about it, share sorrow for sinful actions, and commit to do better. Then, say, "I forgive you in Jesus' name." Sweet words. Loving words. God's words to us and through us to others.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, forgive us when we sin and hurt others with our words and actions. Help us by the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive others in Your name. Amen.

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Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

In this world, I am enslaved by the demands of Satan. **God's Son, Jesus, was born to set me free from the slavery of sin, death, and the devil.**

Bible Words

God gave us eternal life
... in His Son.
1 John 5:11

Just Joking

Who took care of Pharaoh's baby?
An Egyptian mummy.

The Birth of Moses

Exodus 1:1–2:20

Long after Joseph died, a new king arose who did not know Joseph. This new Pharaoh feared the large number of Israelites would team up with Egypt's enemies, so he enslaved them.

Still concerned, Pharaoh ordered Israelite midwives to kill all newborn boys, but the midwives feared God and refused. The Israelites multiplied.

Persistent, Pharaoh ordered the Israelites to drown their baby boys in the Nile River. Instead, one mother floated her son in a tar-covered basket, and stationed his sister to watch from the river bank.

Pharaoh's daughter found the baby and pitied him. The child's sister offered to find someone to nurse the baby, and Pharaoh's daughter ended up paying the child's mother to care for him. When he was older, he became the son of Pharaoh's daughter. She named him Moses.

God used unbelievers and difficult circumstances in His plan to rescue His people. He rescued Moses from the river. He rescues us from sin and death through Baptism. There, God calls us by name, connects us to Jesus' death and resurrection, and gives us faith, forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and the Holy Spirit.

How Can Water Do Such Great Things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying" (Titus 3:5–8).

Luther's Small Catechism, Baptism, Third Part, © 1986, 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

Prayer

Lord God, thank You for making us Your children in Baptism. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

Because of sin, I cannot approach the Lord. **Christ removes my sin so that I am declared blameless before God.**

Bible Words

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
Ephesians 2:13

Fun Fact

God revealed His name to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). God defines Himself by what He will do, by His future acts, specifically the Exodus and the crucifixion of His Son to pay for the sin of the world.

Israel pronounced God's name as "Yahweh." Some Bibles translate it as "Jehovah." Other Bibles show its usage with LORD (notice small caps).

Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:11–4:31

Fire provokes emotion: curiosity, fear, anxiety, anticipation. When Moses saw a bush on fire but not consumed, curiosity overtook him. He turned to investigate and heard God call his name.

God commanded Moses not to come closer because the ground was holy and identified Himself as the God of his ancestors: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses hid his face in fear.

"Fear of the Lord" is difficult to understand. If God is love and He cares for us, why should we fear Him? Isaiah said it well:

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

His understanding is unsearchable (Isaiah 40:28).

Moses understood the fear of the Lord even if he didn't comprehend God's plan to use him to bring His people out of Egypt. Not wearied, God equipped, empowered, and sent Moses back to Egypt to do His work.

Teach Us to Pray

In church, when the pastor said, "Let us pray," the three-year-old said, "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food. Amen."

That's a good start, but let's teach our children more about talking with God. Our Lord invites us to come to Him. "Humble yourselves . . . casting all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:6–7).

Pray with your children at meals and at bedtime. Teach prayers, hymns, and Christian songs they can memorize. Also help children voice their own concerns to the Lord and reassure them that they can always talk to the Lord. He always listens and answers.

Prayer

Lord God, open our hearts and minds so that we can hear Your Word. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we can trust You and worship You with joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

On my own, I see no need for God in my life or in the world.

Christ suffered and died on the cross to free me from the bondage of sin, enabling me to see that He is the one I need most in this world.

Bible Words

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Fun Fact

When God stopped the frog plague, the frog carcasses filled the houses, courtyards, and fields. The people gathered them in heaps, and the land stank! (Exodus 8:13–14)

Just Joking

What did Pharaoh say after he coughed?

Excuse me, I have a frog in my throat.

Moses and the Plagues

Exodus 5–10

The Lord sent Moses and his brother Aaron to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Pharaoh refused and increased the work of the Israelite slaves. Thus began a lengthy and tedious negotiation.

Each time Pharaoh refused, God sent a plague: water turned to blood; frogs; gnats; flies; death of livestock; boils; hail; locusts; and darkness. Each plague showed God's power over one or more Egyptian idols.

At first, Egyptian magicians used trickery to reproduce the plagues, but they soon failed and acknowledged the one true God at work.

Often, when Pharaoh relented, God stopped a plague. Sadly, Pharaoh always went back on his word and hardened his heart. God was winning, but Pharaoh resisted. God promised one more disastrous plague.

God's power in the plagues shamed Egyptian idols, convinced Israelites of God's love for them, and impressed most Egyptians. Considered a god himself, Pharaoh eventually fell due to his legendary stubbornness.

God's power raised His Son from the grave and gives us new life, now and forever. We are His people, and He refuses to let us go.

Fear, Love, and Trust

The first and most important commandment says, "You shall have no other gods." In the Small Catechism, Luther explained that this means "We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things."

Question 22 in the Catechism expands these thoughts.

- **We fear God** above all things when we revere Him alone as the highest being, honor Him with our lives, and avoid what displeases Him.
- **We love God** above all things when we cling to Him alone as our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.
- **We trust God** above all things when we commit our lives to His keeping and rely on Him for help in every need.

First Commandment and Question 22 from *Luther's Small Catechism*, © 1986, 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

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Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

As a sinner, I fear death. **In Christ, I look forward to eternal life; I no longer have to fear death.**

Bible Words

Fear not! Behold, your God will come . . . and save you.
Isaiah 35:4

In Remembrance, for Forgiveness of Sins

God told the Israelites to eat the Passover meal to remember that He brought them out of slavery in Egypt.

Jesus celebrated a last Passover meal with His disciples, right before His arrest. There, He instituted the Lord's Supper with new meaning in bread and wine.

Passing the bread, He said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me" (1 Corinthians 11:24).

Sharing the cup of wine, Jesus said, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27–28).

The Passover

Exodus 11–12

God's love for the children of Israel culminated on the night of the Passover. Although God sent nine horrific plagues, Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt. Through Moses, the Lord warned He would kill all the firstborn of Egypt if Pharaoh did not relent.

Pharaoh hardened his heart. The Lord acted. Finally, Pharaoh *chased* the Israelites out of Egypt.

The Lord gave His people a remembrance dinner of lamb and other foods to recall Passover. Through it, God rescued His people from slavery, gave them new life, and set them on the road to the Promised Land.

Later, God gave His own Son as the Passover Lamb, sacrificed for the sins of the world. Jesus, the firstborn of the dead, rose from the dead three days later. Through His actions, Jesus rescued His people from slavery to sin and death, gave us new life, and set us on the road to the Promised Land of heaven.

Sing a Song

We refer to Jesus as the "Lamb of God" frequently in worship. Banners and altar cloths often feature lamb images. We sing the Agnus Dei (the Lamb of God) before the Lord's Supper: "Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us."

We sing "This Is the Feast," declaring "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God." Other hymns and Christian songs teach about Jesus, the Lamb too.

Pick a favorite "Lamb of God" song and sing it at home this week. Learning to sing worship songs lets children participate in worship and learn important truths about Jesus too.

Prayer

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and empower us to serve You in joy and thankfulness. In Your name we pray. Amen.



Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

The waves of this sinful world surge around me and drain me of life. **The waters of Holy Baptism wash me clean of sin and grant me life eternal.**

Bible Words

Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD.
Exodus 14:13

Just Joking

Who was the best mathematician in the Bible?
Moses, because he wrote the book of Numbers.

Crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–15:21

After the death of his firstborn son, after releasing the Israelites, Pharaoh changed his mind again. His army and charioteers pursued the Israelites and found them camped by the Red Sea.

The people cried out to the Lord and to Moses for help. Moses said, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD. . . . The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent” (Exodus 14:13–14).

At God’s command, Moses stretched his hand over the sea, and the waters parted. The Israelites walked through on dry land!

The Lord caused the wheels of the mighty Egyptian chariots to clog, bind, or fall off. The Egyptians tried to run. But the Lord told Moses to stretch out his hand again, and the sea covered the Egyptians.

St. Paul identified the cloud as a kind of Baptism, saying the people “were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea” (1 Corinthians 10:1–2). They emerged from the sea as new people, saved from slavery.

God saved us by water and His Word too. From the waters of Baptism, we emerge as new people, saved from the slavery to sin, death, and the devil. In Baptism, God makes us His people and gives us faith in Jesus our Savior, the chosen One of God.

By the Numbers

In the second year in the wilderness, God told Moses to count the fighting men, ages twenty and older. Moses found 603,550 men (Numbers 1:46), not counting the Levite tribe, whose men were set aside as priests.

If we add Levites, younger men, women, children, and men too old to fight, Bible scholars estimate as many as two million Israelites left Egypt in the Exodus. Just think about that dust trail!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, protect and help us when we face danger. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

My attempts to satisfy myself with all good things cannot fill the void that sin creates in my life. **Christ—by His suffering, death, and resurrection—fills me to overflowing with His life-giving grace and mercy.**

Bible Words

Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.
Exodus 16:12

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason, and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. . . .

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Luther's Small Catechism, © 1986, 1991 CPH.

God Provides Manna, Water, and Quail

Exodus 16–17

Oh my! We get grumpy when we are hungry and thirsty. It's hard to think about anything else except satisfying those needs.

In our lesson, the Israelites ran out of food and complained to their leader Moses. More than complain, they grumbled! They said they wished they had stayed in Egypt because of the variety of foods there. Obviously, their stomachs made them forget the heavy burdens of slavery!

After all the Lord did to bring them out of Egypt and deliver them from Pharaoh's army, the people didn't trust Him to provide for them.

The Lord said He would provide for His people, and He did. He sent quail every evening and manna every morning. He provided water too. God said this would show the people that He is the Lord their God.

God provides for all our needs too: food, water, and clothing. He works in ways we don't see and through people we don't recognize. Look closer. Who is God using to satisfy your family's needs? And how?

Give Thanks

Do you often say the same prayer at mealtime? Mix it up by using one or more of these prayers.

We thank You, Lord, for happy hearts, for rain and sunny weather.
We thank You, Lord, for this our food, and that we're here together.
Amen.

Thank You, God, for food to eat; for life and health You send.
Thank You most for Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Friend. Amen.

Sing to tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down"
We thank Jesus every day, For our food, every day.
We thank Jesus every day. He's our Savior! Amen.

Sing to tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"
Thank You for the world so sweet. Thank You for the food we eat.
Thank You for Your Word to grow. Thank You for the friends we know.
Thank You for the birds that sing. Thank You God for everything!
Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

The Ten Commandments define God's Law. **Jesus, through His incarnation and by His suffering and death for my sins, defines God's love and mercy toward me.**

Bible Words

The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
John 1:17

Fun Fact

Kept in the ark of the covenant, the tablets of the Law sat in the tabernacle and later in the temple. They apparently were lost when Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian army destroyed the temple in 587 BC.

Just Joking

How did God help Moses with a headache on Mt. Sinai?
God gave Moses two tablets.
Exodus 31:18

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19–20

During the first year in the wilderness, while camped at the base of Mount Sinai, Moses ascended the mountain and received two tablets of stone on which God personally wrote the Ten Commandments.

God did not give the Ten Commandments so we might earn His favor. The Lord knows we are sinful and cannot keep the Law as He desires.

The Commandments, and the whole Law, serve us as:

- (1) **a curb**, helping to control violent outbursts of sin and keeping order in the world;
- (2) **a mirror**, showing our sin and need for a Savior; and
- (3) **a guide**, showing us what God expects and guiding our lives as His children.

Jesus summarized the Commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

Fulfilling the Law

Born and raised as a faithful Jew, Jesus kept the Law. He was circumcised, attended religious festivals, and learned and loved God's Word. Even more, as the Son of God, Jesus fulfilled the Law.

Matthew 5:17: [Jesus said,] "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

In His sinless life, sacrificial suffering and death, and victorious resurrection from the dead, Jesus fulfilled the Law for us. Those who believe in Christ Jesus receive forgiveness of sins, new life, and salvation.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for fulfilling the Law for us and paying for our sins on the cross. Nurture our faith through Your Word and keep us always in Your grace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

My sin makes me unholy and separates me from God; I am unworthy to stand in His presence. **God cleanses me, makes me holy, and dwells in me through the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ.**

Bible Words

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!
Psalm 107:1

A New Temple

Want to know more about the holy house God is building through Christ? Check out Ephesians 2:19–22 and 2 Corinthians 6:16–18.

Worship in the Tabernacle

Exodus 40

At God's command, the Israelites made the first sanctuary to worship the Lord, a tent called a tabernacle. *Tabernacle* means "dwelling." God told the Israelites to set the tabernacle in the center of their camp. He dwelt there, and met Moses and Aaron there. God was with them!

In fact, the sanctuary and all its parts reminded the people that God was with them. Later, the three temples built after the children of Israel settled in the Promised Land followed these same directions.

Jesus was called Immanuel, which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Through Christ, God dwells among us and within us. Jesus "tabernacles" with us.

Christ is building us into a holy temple in the Lord, a dwelling place for God the Spirit. Jesus, the cornerstone, holds the temple together.

Help Children Worship

A family recently welcomed two preschoolers into their home and church family. The children had never been to a worship service because their former church separated them from adults during worship time.

What joy to see children excited to hear God's Word and worship Him! Here are some things the family said they learned.

- Sit where children can see. They pay more attention when they can.
- Go with them to the children's sermon. Help them listen/respond.
- Bring drawing paper and crayons. Suggest they draw what they see.
- Try to prepare children for different parts of worship ahead of time and answer questions during the service in a quiet whisper.
- Model and encourage participation. Help readers follow along with hymns, Bible readings, and other printed parts of the service.
- Help children memorize the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed at home so they can participate when we speak these in worship.

In worship, children learn they belong to Jesus and are welcome in His church. Enriched by Christian art and music, they hear Bible readings, witness Baptisms, and experience Holy Communion—all ways God communicates with His people. Children discover they are valued and loved by God and His people.

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Everyday FAITH Family Page

Old Testament 2

Law/Gospel

Bitten and poisoned by sin and death, I complain when life is not what I want. **God calls me to repentance and points me to Christ, who heals me by His death and resurrection.**

Bible Words

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.
John 3:14–15

Fun Fact

King Hezekiah of Israel broke Moses' bronze serpent into pieces because the people made it into an idol and gave offerings to it. Appalled, Hezekiah destroyed it.

The Bronze Serpent

Numbers 21:4–9

It couldn't have been easy to wander in the desert with two million other people. The Israelites soon lost patience, and they often complained about food, water, and other amenities.

Once, when they grew impatient, the Lord sent fiery serpents. Bitten, many died. Finally, the people confessed their sins and asked Moses to ask the Lord to take away the snakes. Moses did.

God told Moses to make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole. If bitten, anyone who looked at it would live. God healed anyone who trusted His promise to restore life.

This might have passed as a small wilderness event if Jesus hadn't spoken about it to Nicodemus, a religious teacher and Pharisee. (See Bible Words at left.)

Jesus pointed the teacher to this event to show what He would do. Jesus, the Son of Man, would be lifted up on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus promises eternal life to all who look to Him and trust His promise.

Exodus Points to Jesus

- Moses is a "type" or picture of Christ, pleading for the people.
- Aaron, the high priest, represents Jesus, our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14–16).
- Jesus is the Passover lamb (Exodus 12; John 1:29).
- Manna, bread that fell from heaven, sustained the Israelites. Jesus is the Bread of Life (Exodus 16:1–5; John 6:35).
- Moses received the Ten Commandments. Jesus kept all the commandments (Exodus 20; John 8:29; 1 Peter 2:21–24).

Prayer

Jesus, we look to You and believe in You. Forgive us and take away our sins. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.