

Bible

10

Shorts

July-2024

Feedback appreciated:

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Larry Mullins

larrymullins@yahoo.com

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01-A

001: What is the Bible?

Bible Story:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed

- **Story Summary:** Paul explains to Timothy that every part of the Bible is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, correcting, and guiding Christians in living a godly life.

Salvation Connection:

This passage teaches us that the Bible is not just a collection of stories, but God's Word given to help us understand His will and His love for us. It's through the Bible that we learn about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, which are central to our salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can the Bible help you in your daily life?
2. What is one thing you've learned from the Bible this week?

002: The Many Books of the Bible

Bible Story:

Luke 24:44-48 - Jesus explains the Scriptures

- **Story Summary:** After His resurrection, Jesus appears to His disciples and explains how the Scriptures (the Old Testament and prophecies about Him) had to be fulfilled.

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' explanation helps us understand that the entire Bible, both Old and New Testament, works together to tell God's story of redemption. The Bible's 66 books collectively reveal God's plan and purpose through Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think it's important that the Bible has so many different books?
2. How do the Old and New Testaments show us different aspects of God's plan?

003: Divisions of the Bible

Bible Story:

Hebrews 8:6-13 - The Old and New Covenants

- **Story Summary:** This passage discusses the old covenant established in the Old Testament and the new covenant brought through Christ, which is detailed in the New Testament.

Salvation Connection:

Understanding the difference between the Old and New Testament helps us appreciate how Jesus fulfilled the old laws and prophecies and established a new covenant of grace and truth.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some differences between the Old and New Covenants?
2. How does Jesus play a role in both the Old and New Testaments?

004: The Meaning of "Testament"

Bible Story:

Exodus 24:8 - The Covenant Confirmed

- **Story Summary:** Moses sprinkles blood on the altar and on the people, sealing the covenant (testament) between God and Israel.

Salvation Connection:

The term "testament" refers to a covenant or agreement. In the Bible, it signifies God's promises to His people, fulfilled through Jesus in the New Testament.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does a covenant show a serious promise?
2. What does God's covenant mean for us today?

005: Books of the Old Testament

Bible Story:

Psalms 119:105 - God's Word Guides Us

- **Story Summary:** This Psalm celebrates the guidance that God's laws in the Old Testament provide as a light to our path.

Salvation Connection:

The 39 books of the Old Testament are not just historical documents; they are part of God's revelation that guides, instructs, and points us to the coming of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one story from the Old Testament that helps you understand God better?
2. How can the teachings in the Old Testament guide us today?

006: Language of Old Testament

Bible Story:

Nehemiah 8:8 - Reading the Book of the Law

- **Story Summary:** Ezra reads from the Book of the Law (Hebrew Scriptures) to all the people, and the Levites help the people understand what is being read.

Salvation Connection:

The Hebrew language of the Old Testament connects us to the rich traditions and history of the Jewish people, who were the first to receive God's laws. Understanding this helps us appreciate the depth and breadth of God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important that the Old Testament was written in Hebrew?
2. How can understanding the original language of the Bible help us understand its messages better?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders grasp foundational concepts about the Bible, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of its divine origin and purpose in God's plan of salvation.

01-B

007: Exploring New Testament

Bible Story:

Introduction to the New Testament

Salvation Connection:

The New Testament, with its 27 books, guides us through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the early church. It serves as our primary source to understand God's ultimate plan of salvation through Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God gave us so many books to tell about Jesus and the early church?
2. Which book in the New Testament would you like to learn more about, and why?

008: Language of New Testament

Bible Story:

Luke 1:1-4 - Introduction to Luke's Gospel

Salvation Connection:

Luke starts his Gospel by explaining his reason for writing—to give an orderly account of Jesus' life. The New Testament being written in Greek allowed this message to reach many different people across the Roman Empire.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does knowing the New Testament was written in Greek help us understand the spread of Christianity?
2. What are some ways we can share Jesus' message today, like Luke did?

009: Many Writers, One Bible

Bible Story:

2 Peter 1:20-21 - Peter Discusses Scripture's Origin

Salvation Connection:

About forty different authors contributed to the Bible, showing us the diversity and unity of God's word. This diversity enriches the scriptures and confirms the unified message of God's redemption plan for humanity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think we can learn from having so many different people write the Bible?
2. How does it make you feel to know that God spoke through so many different types of people?

010: The Bible's Long Journey

Bible Story:

Psalm 119:89 - The Permanence of God's Word

Salvation Connection:

This verse reflects the timelessness of God's word. Written over approximately 1,600 years, the Bible spans many generations and cultures, yet it remains relevant and authoritative for all of us today.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important that the Bible was written over a long period of time?
2. How does the Bible being written over so many years help prove its truthfulness?

011: Genesis: The Beginning

Bible Story:

Genesis 1:1 - The Creation Story

Salvation Connection:

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, sets the stage for everything that follows in scripture. It introduces us to God's power, humanity's purpose, and the beginning of God's plan for salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some important lessons we learn from the book of Genesis?
2. How does the story of creation impact our understanding of God?

012: The Four Gospels

Bible Story:

Matthew 1:1 - Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew

Salvation Connection:

Matthew, along with Mark, Luke, and John, provides a unique perspective on Jesus' life and ministry. Together, these Gospels give us a full picture of who Jesus is, why He came, and how He fulfilled God's salvation plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is something unique about each of the four Gospels that helps us understand Jesus better?
2. Why do you think there are four different accounts of Jesus' life in the Bible?

These Shorts are designed to engage third-grade students with foundational knowledge about the Bible, its composition, and its message, encouraging them to explore and appreciate the rich diversity of Scripture.

01-C

013: What "Gospel" Means?

Bible Story:

Introduction to the Gospel of Mark (Mark 1:1)

Salvation Connection:

The word "gospel" means "good news," specifically the good news about Jesus Christ—His life, death, and resurrection, which brings salvation to all who believe. Each Gospel begins with the intent to share this wonderful news.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the message about Jesus called the "good news"?
2. How can you share this good news with your friends or family?

014: The Theme of the Gospels

Bible Story:

Luke 4:18-19 - Jesus Announces His Mission

Salvation Connection:

The theme of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—is the life and teachings of Jesus. They describe His miracles, His teachings, His sacrifice, and His victory over death, offering hope and redemption to all.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your favorite story from the Gospels about Jesus' life?
2. How do Jesus' teachings in the Gospels help us today?

015: Paul's Contributions

Bible Story:

Introduction to Romans (Romans 1:1-7)

Salvation Connection:

Paul wrote more books of the New Testament than any other author, contributing significantly to Christian doctrine and the understanding of Jesus' teachings. His letters guide, teach, and encourage Christians of all ages.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some lessons we learn from Paul's letters?
2. Why is Paul an important figure in the Bible?

016: Beginnings of the Church

Bible Story:

Acts 2:1-4 - The Day of Pentecost

Salvation Connection:

The book of Acts tells about the beginnings of the Church, starting with the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost, empowering the apostles to spread the gospel. This shows how the Church is built on the foundation of Jesus' teachings and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the Holy Spirit change the apostles?
2. Why is the Church important for Christians?

017: Prophecies of the Future

Bible Story:

Revelation 1:1-3 - Introduction to Revelation

Salvation Connection:

Revelation, almost entirely composed of prophecies about the future, offers hope and warnings about God's ultimate plan for the world. It reassures us that God is in control, and good will triumph over evil.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some reasons God gave us prophecies in Revelation?
2. How can knowing about the future change the way we live today?

018: Hymns and Songs

Bible Story:

Psalms 23 - The Lord is My Shepherd

Salvation Connection:

Psalms is a book of hymns and songs that expresses a range of emotions from joy, sorrow, repentance to praise. It teaches us how to communicate with God in any situation and reminds us of His faithfulness and love.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is your favorite Psalm and why?
2. How can the Psalms help us when we are feeling sad or scared?

These Shorts help third graders understand key biblical concepts and encourage them to explore how these spiritual truths relate to their everyday lives.

02-A

019: David, the Psalmist

Bible Story:

Psalm 23 - A Psalm of David

Salvation Connection:

King David wrote many of the Psalms as prayers and songs to God. These Psalms express deep emotions, from joy to sorrow, and teach us how to communicate with God in any situation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn about talking to God from David's Psalms?
2. What is your favorite Psalm by David and why?

020: Understanding Epistles

Bible Story:

Ephesians 1:1-2 - Introduction to Ephesians

Salvation Connection:

Epistles are letters in the New Testament written by apostles to teach, correct, and encourage the early Christians. They are filled with advice on living a Christian life and understanding God's truths.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think letters were a good way to communicate with early Christians?
2. What is one lesson you can learn from any epistle?

021: The Book of Many Prayers

Bible Story:

Psalm 150 - Praise the Lord!

Salvation Connection:

Psalms is the longest book in the Bible and contains songs and prayers that address every aspect of life and faith. It teaches us how to praise God and seek His help in every situation.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can the Psalms help us when we feel happy or sad?
2. What is one Psalm that you find uplifting or comforting?

022: The Shortest Chapter

Bible Story:

Psalm 117 - Praise the Lord, All You Nations

Salvation Connection:

Though it is the shortest chapter in the Bible with two verses, Psalm 117 has a powerful message, inviting all nations to praise the Lord for His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Psalm 117 teach us about God's love?
2. How can we share this message of praise with others?

023: The Longest Chapter

Bible Story:

Psalm 119:11 – The whole chapter is a song of God's Word

Salvation Connection:

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and it celebrates the word of God. It teaches us the importance of following God's laws and how His commandments guide our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the psalmist wrote such a long poem about God's laws?
2. What verse from Psalm 119 stands out to you, and why?

024: The Origin of the Universe*

Bible Story:

Where did the universe come from?

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Salvation Connection:

Genesis 1:1 tells us that God created the universe, giving us a powerful beginning to the Bible and the story of everything. It shows God's power and authority over all creation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that God created everything from nothing?
2. How do you feel knowing that the same God who created the universe cares about you?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders understand key biblical themes and encourage them to think about how these themes relate to their daily lives.

02-B

025: Adam and Eve

Bible Story:

Genesis 3:20 - Adam Names His Wife Eve

Salvation Connection:

Adam and Eve were the first humans created by God and placed in the Garden of Eden. Their story teaches us about God's love, the origin of sin, and the beginning of God's plan for salvation through Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What responsibilities did God give Adam and Eve in the Garden?
2. How can we follow God's instructions like Adam and Eve should have?

026: Created in God's Image

Bible Story:

Genesis 1:27 - God Creates Mankind

Salvation Connection:

Humans are unique among all of God's creation because we are made in His image. This special status gives us value and purpose, and it calls us to live in a way that reflects God's love and righteousness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does being made in God's image mean for how you treat others?
2. How can you show God's image in your actions at school or home?

027: Cain and Abel

Bible Story:

Genesis 4:1-2 - The First Two Brothers

Salvation Connection:

Cain and Abel's story teaches us about jealousy, anger, and the consequences of sin. It also shows the importance of giving our best to God and dealing with our emotions in healthy ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Abel's offering to God?
2. How can you handle feelings like jealousy or anger in a better way?

028: Cain the Murderer

Bible Story:

Genesis 4:8 - Cain Kills Abel

Salvation Connection:

Cain's sin escalated from jealousy to murder, demonstrating how unchecked sin can lead to greater evil. This story highlights the need for repentance and God's mercy, pointing us towards seeking forgiveness and reconciliation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What could Cain have done differently to avoid sinning?
2. How does God want us to handle our conflicts with others?

029: The Entrance of Sin

Bible Story:

Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:14 - The Fall of Man

Salvation Connection:

Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin into the world, affecting all humanity. This story sets the stage for our need for a Savior, fulfilled in Jesus, who restores our relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did sin change Adam and Eve's life and our world?
2. Why is Jesus' sacrifice important for overcoming sin?

030: The Two Trees

Bible Story:

Genesis 2:17; 3:24 - The Trees of the Garden

Salvation Connection:

The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represent the choices given to Adam and Eve, which continue to affect humanity. Choosing to follow God leads to life, just as Jesus provides us the way to eternal life through His teachings and sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the two trees teach us about choices?
2. How can we make choices that lead to life, like choosing to follow Jesus?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders connect deeply with biblical stories that teach fundamental truths about human nature, sin, and God's redemptive plan.

02-C

031: Enoch's Walk with God

Bible Story:

Genesis 5:24 - Enoch Walks with God

Salvation Connection:

Enoch had a special relationship with God; he walked faithfully with Him and was taken to heaven without dying. This story teaches us about the reward of faithfully living for God and having a close relationship with Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to walk with God like Enoch did?
2. How can you walk with God in your daily life?

032: Methuselah's Long Life

Bible Story:

Genesis 5:27 - Methuselah Lives 969 Years

Salvation Connection:

Methuselah, known for his extraordinarily long life, reminds us of the early blessings of long life and the historical changes in human lifespan over time. His life also leads up to the significant event of the flood, showing God's patience with humanity.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think people in the Bible lived so much longer than we do now?
2. What can we learn from the long lives of people like Methuselah?

033: The Reason for the Flood

Bible Story:

Genesis 6:5 - The Wickedness of the World

Salvation Connection:

God sent the flood because of the extreme wickedness of humanity, where every thought was only evil continually. This story demonstrates the seriousness of sin and God's judgment but also His mercy in saving Noah, who found favor in His eyes.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to make good choices and think about good things?
2. How can we avoid thinking about or doing evil things?

034: Noah's Family Spared

Bible Story:

Genesis 7:7 - Noah's Family Enters the Ark

Salvation Connection:

Noah and his family were spared from the flood due to Noah's faithfulness to God. This story teaches us about God's protection for those who are faithful and obedient to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What made Noah different from others during his time?
2. How can you show faithfulness to God like Noah did?

035: Noah's Three Sons

Bible Story:

Genesis 7:13 - Noah and His Sons Enter the Ark

Salvation Connection:

Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, were part of the new beginning after the flood. Their families repopulated the earth, showing how God preserves life and continues His plans through generations.

Discussion Questions:

1. What responsibilities did Noah's sons have after the flood?
2. What can we learn from Noah's family about working together as a family?

036: The Forty Days of Rain

Bible Story:

Genesis 7:12 - Forty Days of Rain

Salvation Connection:

The forty days of rain during the flood represent a period of cleansing and restarting the world. It symbolizes how God can bring renewal and new beginnings out of even the most challenging situations.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Noah felt during the forty days of rain?
2. What does this story teach us about trusting God during hard times?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders connect with significant Old Testament stories, understanding God's judgment and mercy, and learning about His expectations for living a life that honors Him.

03-A

037: The First Rainbow

Bible Story:

Genesis 9:15 - God's Covenant with Noah

Salvation Connection:

The rainbow was a sign of God's promise to Noah and all living creatures that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. This story teaches us about God's mercy and faithfulness to His promises.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the rainbow remind us about God and His promises?
2. Can you think of other promises God has made to us in the Bible?

038: The Tower of Babel

Bible Story:

Genesis 11:4 - The Building of the Tower

Salvation Connection:

The people in Babel built a tower to make themselves famous and to stay united in one place, going against God's command to fill the earth. This story shows that pride and disobedience lead to confusion and separation from God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to follow God's plans instead of our own?
2. How can we make sure we are building our lives on God's commands?

039: Confusion at Babel

Bible Story:

Genesis 11:7 - Confusion of Languages

Salvation Connection:

God judged the prideful builders at Babel by confusing their languages, demonstrating His control over all human plans. This teaches us the importance of humility and seeking God's will in all our endeavors.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the confusion of languages change the builders' plans?
2. Why do you think God wants us to depend on Him instead of our own fame?

040: Abraham's Faith Tested

Bible Story:

Hebrews 11:8 - Abraham's Call

Salvation Connection:

God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to leave his home and go to an unknown place. Abraham's obedience is an example for us to trust in God's guidance, even when the path is unclear.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Abraham's willingness to follow God?
2. How can we show trust in God's plans for us, even when we don't see the whole picture?

041: Lot, Abraham's Nephew

Bible Story:

Genesis 12:4-5 - Abraham and Lot Travel Together

Salvation Connection:

Lot's journey with Abraham shows the importance of family and the influence of good leadership. As Abraham's nephew, Lot learned about God's promises and witnessed Abraham's faith in action.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can family members influence our faith and decisions?
2. What are some ways you can be a good influence on others?

042: The Land of Canaan

Bible Story:

Genesis 12:5 - Abraham Enters Canaan

Salvation Connection:

Canaan, the land promised to Abraham by God, represents the fulfillment of God's promises. This story highlights God's faithfulness in providing and leading His people to a place where they can prosper and worship Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was the promise of Canaan important to Abraham and his descendants?
2. What promises of God are you thankful for today?

These Shorts help third graders explore foundational stories from the Bible, encouraging them to learn from the faithfulness and mistakes of biblical figures and to trust in God's guidance and promises.

03-B

043: Sarah, Abraham's Wife

Bible Story:

Genesis 17:15 - God Renames Sarai to Sarah

Salvation Connection:

Sarah, originally named Sarai, was Abraham's wife and an important figure in biblical history. Her story teaches us about faith and God's power to work miracles, as she became the mother of Isaac at an advanced age, fulfilling God's promise.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Sarah's patience and faith in God's promises?
2. How do you think Sarah felt when God told her she would have a son in her old age?

044: Abraham's Journey to Egypt

Bible Story:

Genesis 12:10 - Abraham Goes Down to Egypt

Salvation Connection:

During a famine, Abraham went to Egypt to find sustenance, showing his practical decision-making to care for his family. However, this journey also led to challenges that tested his faith and integrity.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to trust God during difficult times?
2. What can we learn from Abraham's actions in Egypt?

045: Lot's Choice of Sodom

Bible Story:

Genesis 13:13 - Lot Chooses to Live near Sodom

Salvation Connection:

Lot's decision to live near Sodom, despite its wickedness, warns us of the dangers of being influenced by our surroundings. This story highlights the importance of choosing to live in environments that help us grow in our faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to choose our friends and surroundings carefully?
2. How can bad influences affect our lives?

046: Melchizedek, Priest and King

Bible Story:

Genesis 14:18 - Melchizedek Blesses Abraham

Salvation Connection:

Melchizedek, a priest of God and king of Salem, represents peace and righteousness. His blessing of Abraham signifies the recognition of God's work in Abraham's life and foreshadows Jesus Christ, who is also a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Melchizedek's blessing tell us about God's approval?
2. How can we seek blessings from God in our lives?

047: Ishmael, Son of Hagar

Bible Story:

Genesis 16:16 - The Birth of Ishmael

Salvation Connection:

Ishmael's birth to Hagar, Sarah's maidservant, resulted from Sarah and Abraham's impatience with God's promise. This story teaches us about the consequences of taking matters into our own hands instead of waiting for God's timing.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens when we try to rush God's plans?
2. How can we practice patience while waiting for God's promises?

048: Sodom and Gomorrah

Bible Story:

Genesis 19:24 - God Destroys Sodom and Gomorrah

Salvation Connection:

The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire because of their wickedness demonstrates God's judgment on sin. It reminds us of the need for righteousness and the mercy God provides to those who seek Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah about the consequences of sin?
2. How does God show mercy even in times of judgment?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore significant Old Testament stories, understanding their meanings and how they relate to our lives today.

03-C

049: The Birth of Isaac

Bible Story:

Genesis 21:1-3 - Isaac Is Born

Salvation Connection:

Isaac's birth to Abraham and Sarah was a fulfillment of God's promise, showing that God is faithful and can do the impossible. This story teaches us about trusting God's timing and His plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Abraham and Sarah felt when Isaac was born?
2. What promises has God made to us that we can trust Him to fulfill?

050: Abraham and Sarah's Age

Bible Story:

Genesis 17:17,21; 21:1-5 - The Promise of Isaac

Salvation Connection:

The miraculous birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah in their old age demonstrates that with God, nothing is impossible. It encourages us to believe in God's power, no matter how unlikely or difficult our circumstances may seem.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to never doubt God's power?
2. Can you think of a time when God helped your family in an unexpected way?

051: Isaac and Rebekah

Bible Story:

Genesis 24:67 - Isaac Marries Rebekah

Salvation Connection:

Isaac's marriage to Rebekah, arranged by divine guidance, reminds us that God cares about our relationships and guides us in our major life decisions. Their story encourages us to seek God's will in all areas of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we look for God's guidance when making big decisions?
2. What does this story teach us about trusting God's choices for us?

052: Esau and Jacob

Bible Story:

Genesis 25:20-26 - The Birth of Esau and Jacob

Salvation Connection:

Esau and Jacob, twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, had very different personalities and destinies. Their story shows how personal choices and God's sovereignty work together in shaping our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What differences can you see between Esau and Jacob?
2. How do our choices affect our future?

053: Esau Sells His Birthright

Bible Story:

Genesis 25:29-34 - Esau Sells His Birthright

Salvation Connection:

Esau's decision to sell his birthright for a meal illustrates the consequences of valuing immediate gratification over long-term blessings. It teaches us to consider the long-term impact of our choices.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it a bad decision for Esau to sell his birthright?
2. How can you make choices that think about the future, not just what you want right now?

054: Jacob's Deception

Bible Story:

Genesis 27:1-29 - Jacob Deceives Isaac

Salvation Connection:

Jacob's deception to obtain his father Isaac's blessing meant for Esau shows that deceitful ways can lead to family conflict and personal turmoil. This story helps us learn the importance of honesty and integrity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were the consequences of Jacob's actions for him and his family?
2. Why is honesty important, even when you might gain from being dishonest?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore significant biblical narratives, learn from the characters' experiences, and apply biblical truths to their daily lives.

04-A

055: Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Bible Story:

Genesis 28:10-19 - Jacob's Ladder

Salvation Connection:

Jacob's dream of a stairway to heaven at Bethel symbolizes the connection between God and humanity. It reassures us that God is accessible and has a plan for each of us, just as He had for Jacob.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think the stairway represents in Jacob's dream?
2. How can we feel connected to God like Jacob did?

056: Joseph and Benjamin

Bible Story:

Genesis 30:22-24; 35:16-18 - The Birth of Joseph and Benjamin

Salvation Connection:

Rachel's story of motherhood introduces Joseph and Benjamin, key figures in the story of Israel's family. It teaches us about God's timing and the special roles each person plays in God's plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Rachel's patience and faith in God?
2. How does knowing everyone has a special role help us appreciate our families more?

057: Jacob Becomes Israel

Bible Story:

Genesis 32:28 - Jacob Wrestles with God

Salvation Connection:

When Jacob wrestles with God and is renamed Israel, it signifies a turning point in his life. This change shows that when we struggle but stay committed to God, He can transform our lives and use us for His purposes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the name change from Jacob to Israel teach us about personal transformation?
2. How can we show perseverance in our faith like Jacob?

058: Joseph's Dreams

Bible Story:

Genesis 37 - Joseph's Dreams

Salvation Connection:

Joseph's dreams about his future greatness were not just dreams; they were revelations from God. This story teaches us that God has plans for us that might not be clear at first but are always for our good and His glory.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to trust God's plans for our lives, even when others don't understand?
2. What can Joseph's dreams teach us about dealing with jealousy or disbelief from others?

059: Jacob's Love for Joseph

Bible Story:

Genesis 37:3,23 - The Coat of Many Colors

Salvation Connection:

Jacob's special gift to Joseph, a beautiful robe, was a sign of his great love and favor. This gift, however, led to jealousy among Joseph's brothers, reminding us that our actions can affect others deeply.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we show love and appreciation without causing jealousy?
2. What can we learn from Joseph's reaction to his brothers' feelings?

060: Joseph in Egypt

Bible Story:

Genesis 37:36 - Joseph Sold into Slavery

Salvation Connection:

Joseph's sale into slavery in Egypt begins a journey of hardship and triumph. Despite the trials, God's hand was on Joseph, guiding him towards a greater purpose—saving many people. This teaches us that no matter our circumstances, God is working in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we keep our faith like Joseph did during hard times?
2. What can Joseph's journey teach us about forgiveness and purpose?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore significant biblical events and their meanings, encouraging them to see how these ancient stories connect with their own lives today.

04-B

061: Joseph and Potiphar

Bible Story:

Genesis 39:1 - Joseph Serves in Potiphar's House

Salvation Connection:

Joseph's service to Potiphar showcases his integrity and God's favor in his life, even in difficult circumstances. This story teaches us that God rewards faithfulness and that we can serve God well, no matter where we are.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Joseph show integrity while working for Potiphar?
2. What can you do to show that you are trustworthy like Joseph?

062: Joseph's Integrity Tested

Bible Story:

Genesis 39:20 - Joseph is Imprisoned

Salvation Connection:

When falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, Joseph faced unjust punishment. His steadfast integrity, despite harsh consequences, demonstrates how we should cling to righteousness, trusting God through unfair situations.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Joseph handle being treated unfairly?
2. What should you do when you are blamed for something you didn't do?

063: Joseph Interprets in Prison

Bible Story:

Genesis 40:1-22 - Joseph Interprets the Dreams

Salvation Connection:

While in prison, Joseph used his God-given ability to interpret dreams for the Pharaoh's baker and cupbearer. This highlights that God can use our gifts in any situation to set the stage for greater plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Joseph use his gift to help others?
2. What talents do you have that can help people around you?

064: Pharaoh Dream Interpreted

Bible Story:

Genesis 41:25-27 - The Prediction of Seven Years of Famine

Salvation Connection:

Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream and his insight into the coming famine show how God equips us to handle big responsibilities. This teaches us to use our understanding wisely and prepare for the future.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Joseph's preparation for the famine?
2. How can we prepare ourselves for future challenges?

065: Joseph Rises to Power

Bible Story:

Genesis 41:33-46 - Joseph Becomes Governor

Salvation Connection:

Pharaoh appointed Joseph to be in charge of preparing for the famine because of his wisdom and insight. Joseph's rise from prisoner to governor illustrates how God lifts us up to fulfill His purposes.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Joseph's faith in God help him become a leader?
2. What qualities do you think make a good leader?

066: Joseph's Sons

Bible Story:

Genesis 41:50-52 - The Birth of Ephraim and Manasseh

Salvation Connection:

The names of Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, reflect his journey from hardship to blessing. This story teaches us about the blessings that can come from enduring difficulties and trusting God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the names of Joseph's sons tell us about his feelings towards his past?
2. How can you find good in difficult situations like Joseph did?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders learn valuable lessons from Joseph's life, encouraging them to develop integrity, use their gifts, and trust in God's plans.

04-C

067: Joseph's Brothers in Egypt

Bible Story:

Genesis 41:57 - Joseph's Brothers Come to Buy Food

Salvation Connection:

Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy food during a famine, setting the stage for a family reunion and a powerful story of forgiveness. This teaches us about God's provision and the importance of reconciliation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Joseph's brothers needing help during the famine?
2. How can we seek forgiveness from someone we have wronged?

068: The Family Settles in Goshen

Bible Story:

Genesis 46:34 - Jacob's Family Moves to Goshen

Salvation Connection:

Jacob and his family settled in Goshen, an area in Egypt, where they could thrive even in times of famine. This story highlights God's care for His people, providing for them in unexpected ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God provide for Jacob's family in Egypt?
2. What does this story teach us about trusting God during tough times?

069: Baby Moses in the River

Bible Story:

Exodus 2:1-10 - Moses Is Found by Pharaoh's Daughter

Salvation Connection:

Moses was saved by Pharaoh's daughter, which shows God's protective hand over His chosen deliverer from an early age. This teaches us that God has a plan for each of us, and sometimes it starts from the very beginning of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God protect Moses when he was a baby?
2. Can you think of ways God has looked out for you or your family?

070: Moses Flees to Midian

Bible Story:

Exodus 2:11-15 - Moses Flees Egypt

Salvation Connection:

Moses fled to Midian after it was discovered he had killed an Egyptian. His time in Midian prepared him for his future role as leader. This story teaches us about the consequences of our actions and God's guidance even when we make mistakes.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Moses felt compelled to defend the Israelite?
2. What can we learn from Moses' reaction and subsequent flight?

071: Moses' Father-in-Law Jethro

Bible Story:

Exodus 3:1 - Moses and the Burning Bush near Jethro's Land

Salvation Connection:

Jethro, the priest of Midian and Moses' father-in-law, played a significant role in Moses' life, offering him shelter and guidance. This relationship highlights the importance of mentors and spiritual guidance in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jethro help Moses during his time in Midian?
2. Why is it important to have mentors like Jethro?

072: Burning Bush on Mount Sinai

Bible Story:

Exodus 3:1-2 - God Speaks to Moses from the Burning Bush

Salvation Connection:

God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush at Mount Sinai was a pivotal moment, calling Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. This shows that God can use extraordinary means to speak to us and direct our paths.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was significant about God speaking to Moses through a burning bush?
2. How can we listen for God's guidance in our lives?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore foundational biblical stories and understand how they reveal God's protection, guidance, and plans for reconciliation and deliverance.

05-A

073: The Burning Bush Promise

Bible Story:

Exodus 3:8-10 - God's Promise to Moses

Salvation Connection:

At the burning bush, God promised Moses that He would rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This story teaches us about God's faithfulness to His promises and His concern for His people.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God chose Moses to help free the Israelites?
2. How can we trust in God's promises today like Moses did?

074: The Ten Plagues

Bible Story:

Exodus 7-11 - The Ten Plagues

Salvation Connection:

God sent ten plagues upon Egypt to demonstrate His power and persuade Pharaoh to release the Israelites. This series of events shows us that God will go to great lengths to deliver His people and fulfill His purposes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from how God dealt with Pharaoh and the Egyptians?
2. How does knowing about the plagues help us understand God's power?

075: Aaron Helps Moses

Bible Story:

Exodus 4:14 - Aaron Joins Moses

Salvation Connection:

God provided Moses with his brother Aaron as a helper to speak to Pharaoh and the Israelites. This partnership teaches us the importance of teamwork and that God often sends us support through others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Moses needed help from Aaron?
2. How can we be helpful to others as Aaron was to Moses?

076: The Tenth Plague

Bible Story:

Exodus 11:1-7 - The Death of the Firstborn

Salvation Connection:

The tenth plague, the death of the firstborn in Egypt, was a pivotal moment that led to the Israelites' release. It highlights the severity of God's judgments but also His provision for those who obey Him, as the Israelites were spared through the Passover.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the impact of the tenth plague on Egypt and the Israelites?
2. How does the story of the tenth plague teach us about justice and mercy?

077: The Passover Feast

Bible Story:

Exodus 12:3-11 - Establishment of Passover

Salvation Connection:

Passover commemorates the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, particularly how the blood of the lamb saved them from the tenth plague. It reminds us of Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice delivers us from sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Passover an important event for the Israelites and for us today?
2. How does Passover point forward to what Jesus did for us?

078: Crossing the Red Sea

Bible Story:

Exodus 14:13-22 - Parting of the Red Sea

Salvation Connection:

The miracle of the Red Sea parting allowed the Israelites to escape from the Egyptians, showing God's power and protection. This event teaches us that God can make a way for us even when escape seems impossible.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the parting of the Red Sea show God's power?
2. Can you think of a time when God helped you when it seemed there was no way?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders understand the deep and powerful stories of Moses and the Exodus, encouraging them to see how these ancient events relate to their lives today.

05-B

079: The Egyptians in the Red Sea

Bible Story:

Exodus 14:23-28 - The Egyptians Drown in the Red Sea

Salvation Connection:

When the Egyptians tried to follow the Israelites through the parted Red Sea, the waters returned and drowned them. This dramatic event shows God's protection over His people and His judgment on their oppressors. It teaches us that God is powerful and will defend His people.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for God to protect the Israelites from the Egyptians?
2. What does this story teach us about God's power and justice?

080: Miriam, Moses' Sister

Bible Story:

Exodus 15:20 - Miriam Leads the Women in Worship

Salvation Connection:

Miriam, the sister of Moses, played a key role after the crossing of the Red Sea by leading the Israelite women in a song of praise. This story highlights the importance of giving thanks to God and celebrating His deliverance.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Miriam show her gratitude to God?
2. What are some ways we can celebrate and thank God for His help in our lives?

081: The Bitter Waters of Marah

Bible Story:

Exodus 15:24-25 - The Waters of Marah Made Sweet

Salvation Connection:

When the Israelites found only bitter water at Marah, God showed Moses a piece of wood to throw into the water, making it drinkable. This miracle teaches us that God can provide solutions to our problems in unexpected ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God provide for the Israelites at Marah?
2. What can we do when we face 'bitter waters' or difficult situations in our lives?

082: Manna from Heaven

Bible Story:

Exodus 16:1-18 - God Provides Manna

Salvation Connection:

God provided manna, a special bread from heaven, to feed the Israelites in the wilderness. This daily provision reminds us that God meets our needs every day, and we can depend on Him for our sustenance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What lesson can we learn from the way God provided manna?
2. How does God provide for your family's needs?

083: Water from the Rock

Bible Story:

Exodus 17:1-6 - Water from the Rock at Rephidim

Salvation Connection:

In another display of miraculous provision, God brought water from a rock to quench the thirst of the Israelites. This event symbolizes God's ability to provide abundantly even in desolate situations.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this miracle teach us about trusting God?
2. How can we look to God to fulfill our needs?

084: Victory Over the Amalekites

Bible Story:

Exodus 17:8-13 - Moses' Hands Held High

Salvation Connection:

During the battle with the Amalekites, Moses had to keep his hands raised for Israel to prevail. Aaron and Hur helped by supporting his hands, showing the power of teamwork and support among God's people.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Aaron and Hur help Moses?
2. Why is it important to help and support each other?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders understand and reflect on the various ways God cares for and protects His people, encouraging them to trust in God's provision and seek His help in their daily lives.

05-C

085: Commandments on Mt Sinai

Bible Story:

Exodus 19:1,2 - The Giving of the Law at Mount Sinai

Salvation Connection:

Mount Sinai was where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which are fundamental rules for living a life that honors God. This event shows God's holiness and His desire for His people to live in ways that reflect His character.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God give the Ten Commandments to Moses on a mountain?
2. How can we follow these commandments in our daily lives?

086: The First Commandment*

Bible Story:

The first of the Ten Commandments is Exodus 20:3 "You must not have any other god but me."

Salvation Connection:

The first commandment, "You must not have any other god but me," teaches us about the importance of worshiping only God. It reminds us that God should be the most important part of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things that people sometimes treat as more important than God?
2. How can you show that God is the most important in your life?

087: No Idols*

Bible Story:

The Ten Commandments prohibits the worshipping of idols is Exodus 20:4 "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind."

Salvation Connection:

The commandment against making idols teaches us to worship only God in His true form, not through images or objects. This helps us focus on God's real presence in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it wrong to make idols or worship things?
2. How can we honor God with the way we treat things and images?

088: The Name of the Lord*

Bible Story:

The Ten Commandments prohibits cursing and swearing is Exodus 20:7 "You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God."

Salvation Connection:

The commandment to not misuse the name of the Lord teaches us about respecting God and everything associated with Him. It encourages us to speak about God with reverence.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways we can misuse God's name?
2. How can we show respect for God's name in our conversations?

089: The Sabbath Day*

Bible Story:

The Ten Commandments sets aside one day each week as special unto God is Exodus 20:8 "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

Salvation Connection:

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy provides us with a regular reminder to rest and worship God, showing that our relationship with Him is more important than our daily tasks.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to keep a day holy?
2. How can you use the Sabbath to spend more time with God and your family?

090: Honor Your Parents

Bible Story:

Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2,3 - The Commandment with a Promise

Salvation Connection:

"Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment with a promise—promising long life and well-being. It teaches us the importance of respecting and obeying our parents, as this aligns with God's design for family and society.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God promises a reward for honoring our parents?
2. What are some ways you can show honor to your parents every day?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders understand and apply the principles found in the Ten Commandments, fostering a deeper respect for God and His laws.

06-A

091: The Sanctity of Life

Bible Story:

Exodus 20:13 - "You must not murder."

Salvation Connection:

This commandment emphasizes the value God places on human life. By commanding us not to murder, God teaches us to respect and cherish each person, who is made in His image.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is every human life important to God?
2. How can we show respect for the lives of others every day?

092: The Sanctity of Marriage

Bible Story:

Exodus 20:14 - "You must not commit adultery."

Salvation Connection:

This commandment protects the sanctity of marriage, underscoring the commitment and faithfulness that God expects in these relationships. It teaches us about loyalty and the importance of keeping our promises.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this commandment teach us about trust and loyalty?
2. How can we practice being faithful and trustworthy in our friendships and family relationships?

093: The Right to Own Possessions

Bible Story:

Exodus 20:15 - "You must not steal."

Salvation Connection:

This commandment shows the importance of respecting others' belongings and promotes honesty and integrity in our dealings. It encourages us to be content with what we have and work for our possessions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to respect other people's property?
2. What are some ways we can practice being honest and fair?

094: The Prohibition of Lying

Bible Story:

Exodus 20:16 - "You must not testify falsely against your neighbor."

Salvation Connection:

God values truth, and this commandment teaches us to avoid lying and spreading falsehoods. It fosters a community of trust and honesty, essential for healthy relationships.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is telling the truth important?
2. How does lying hurt other people and ourselves?

095: The Danger of Coveting

Bible Story:

Exodus 20:17 - "You must not covet."

Salvation Connection:

Coveting, or wrongly desiring what others have, can lead to unhappiness and harmful actions. This commandment teaches us to be content and grateful for our blessings and to trust God for our needs.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to covet?
2. How can we learn to be happy with what we have?

096: The Ten Commandments

Bible Story:

Exodus 20 - The First Record of the Ten Commandments

Salvation Connection:

The Ten Commandments were given to guide the Israelites in living a life that honors God and respects others. These laws form the foundation of ethical behavior and reflect God's holy standards.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God give the Ten Commandments to the Israelites?
2. How do these commandments help us in our lives today?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders understand the Ten Commandments and their implications for daily living, encouraging them to respect and live out God's laws.

06-B

097: The Tabernacle

Bible Story:

Exodus 26:30 - Building the Tabernacle

Salvation Connection:

The Tabernacle was a portable sanctuary where the Israelites worshipped God during their wilderness journey. It symbolized God's presence among His people and their need to center their lives around Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to have the Tabernacle in the wilderness?
2. How can we make sure God is at the center of our lives today?

098: The Golden Calf

Bible Story:

Exodus 32:4 - The Sin of the Golden Calf

Salvation Connection:

Aaron and the Israelites sinned by making and worshiping the golden calf while Moses was on Mount Sinai. This story teaches us about the dangers of idolatry and the importance of worshiping only the true God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Israelites decided to worship the golden calf?
2. What can we do to avoid modern forms of idolatry in our lives?

099: The Tribe of Levi

Bible Story:

Numbers 1:17-53 - The Priests from Levi

Salvation Connection:

The Levites were chosen from the tribes of Israel to serve as priests, tasked with leading worship and carrying out sacrifices. This set them apart as a special group dedicated to serving God and the community.

Discussion Questions:

1. What special responsibilities did the Levites have?
2. How can we serve God in our community?

100: The Purpose of Sacrifices

Bible Story:

Leviticus 5:1-6 - The Law of Sacrifices

Salvation Connection:

The sacrifices made by the Israelites were a way for them to atone for their sins and maintain a holy relationship with God. These sacrifices point forward to Jesus Christ, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were sacrifices important in the Old Testament?
2. How does Jesus' sacrifice change our relationship with God?

101: Leading the Israelites

Bible Story:

Numbers 9:15-23 - God Leads with a Cloud and Fire

Salvation Connection:

God used a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide the Israelites in the wilderness. This miraculous guidance reminds us that God is always with us, leading and protecting us on our journey.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the cloud and fire help the Israelites?
2. What are some ways God guides us today?

102: The Twelve Spies

Bible Story:

Numbers 13:16-20 - The Spies Sent to Canaan

Salvation Connection:

The twelve spies were sent to Canaan to assess the land God promised them. This mission highlights the importance of trust in God's promises and the consequences of doubt and fear.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from the story of the spies?
2. How can we show trust in God when facing challenges?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore significant biblical events and their meanings, encouraging them to see how these stories relate to their faith and daily lives.

06-C

103: The Fruit of Canaan

Bible Story:

Numbers 13:23-24 - The Spies Bring Back Fruit

Salvation Connection:

The fruit brought back by the spies from Canaan was evidence of the land's richness and God's faithfulness in providing a fertile land as He promised. This story teaches us about God's abundant blessings and the importance of trusting His promises.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was the fruit important for the Israelites to see?
2. How can we remember to trust God's promises when we face difficulties?

104: Joshua and Caleb's Faith

Bible Story:

Numbers 14:1-9 - Joshua and Caleb Stand Firm

Salvation Connection:

While other spies were fearful, Joshua and Caleb trusted God's promise to help them conquer Canaan. Their faith reminds us that with God's help, we can overcome any obstacle.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Joshua and Caleb about facing challenges?
2. How can you show faith like theirs in your own life?

105: Forty Years in the Wilderness

Bible Story:

Numbers 14:33-34 - The Consequence of Disobedience

Salvation Connection:

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years due to their disobedience and lack of faith. This period reminds us that our actions have consequences and highlights the importance of obedience to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the Israelites have to wander for forty years?
2. What can we do to follow God's commands more faithfully?

106: Aaron's Staff Blossoms

Bible Story:

Numbers 17:1-10 - Aaron's Staff Sprouts

Salvation Connection:

God made Aaron's staff sprout to show that Moses and Aaron were His chosen leaders. This miracle teaches us that God has the power to affirm His leaders and His plans in unmistakable ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Aaron's blossoming staff teach us about God's choices?
2. How can we support the leaders God has placed in our lives?

107: Disobedience at Meribah

Bible Story:

Numbers 20:7-13 - Moses Strikes the Rock

Salvation Connection:

Moses disobeyed God at Meribah by striking the rock to bring forth water instead of speaking to it as commanded. This incident teaches us about the importance of following God's instructions exactly and the consequences of letting frustration lead our actions.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was wrong with Moses' action at Meribah?
2. How can we make sure to follow God's instructions carefully?

108: Bronze Snake Healing

Bible Story:

Numbers 21:5-9 - The Bronze Snake

Salvation Connection:

When the Israelites were bitten by venomous snakes, God provided a way for them to be healed by looking at a bronze snake on a pole. This symbolizes looking to Christ for healing from sin, as Jesus Himself referred to this story in the New Testament.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does the bronze snake point forward to Jesus' crucifixion?
2. What does this story teach us about God's provision for our needs?

These Shorts help third graders connect biblical stories with practical lessons about faith, obedience, leadership, and God's provision, fostering a deeper understanding of how these themes apply to their lives today.

07-A

109: Joshua, Israel's New Leader

Bible Story:

Numbers 27:18-23 - Joshua Appointed as Leader

Salvation Connection:

God appointed Joshua to be the leader of Israel after Moses, showing His continual guidance and provision for His people. Joshua's leadership teaches us about the importance of courage and faithfulness in following God's plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. What qualities did Joshua have that made him a good leader?
2. How can you show leadership in your own life?

110: Moses and the Promised Land

Bible Story:

Deuteronomy 32:48-52 - Moses Not Allowed in Canaan

Salvation Connection:

Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his disobedience at Meribah. This story reminds us of the importance of obeying God and demonstrating His holiness through our actions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for Moses to obey God fully?
2. What can we learn from Moses' mistake?

111: Moses Views Canaan

Bible Story:

Deuteronomy 34:1 - Moses on Mount Nebo

Salvation Connection:

From Mount Nebo, Moses saw the land God promised to the Israelites. Although he couldn't enter, this moment showed God's faithfulness in bringing His people to the edge of their destiny. It teaches us about God's faithfulness and the rewards of perseverance.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think Moses felt seeing the land from afar?
2. How can we remain faithful even when we face disappointments?

112: The Age of Moses

Bible Story:

Deuteronomy 34:7 - The Death of Moses at 120 Years

Salvation Connection:

Moses lived to be 120 years old, his life marked by leadership and to God. His long life and the transition of his leadership to Joshua remind us that God has a plan for each phase of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What important things did Moses do in his life?
2. How does Moses' life inspire you to live for God?

113: Joshua and Caleb are Faithful

Bible Story:

Numbers 26:65 - Joshua and Caleb Enter Canaan

Salvation Connection:

Joshua and Caleb were the only two of their generation allowed to enter the Promised Land because of their faith and obedience. Their story highlights the rewards of steadfast faith and loyalty to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What set Joshua and Caleb apart from others?
2. How can we show faith and loyalty like they did?

114: Rahab Protects the Spies

Bible Story:

Joshua 2:1-6 - Rahab and the Spies

Salvation Connection:

Rahab protected the spies sent by Joshua to Jericho, demonstrating bravery and faith in God's people. Her actions show how faith can lead to salvation and inclusion in God's plans, even for those who seem unlikely.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Rahab's courage?
2. How can you help others even when it might be difficult?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders learn from the examples of biblical figures like Joshua, Moses, and Rahab, and apply lessons of faithfulness, leadership, and courage to their own lives.

07-B

115: Rahab's Scarlet Rope

Bible Story:

Joshua 2:18-21 - Rahab's Signal

Salvation Connection:

Rahab used a scarlet rope to mark her house, which was a sign for the Israelites to spare her and her family during the attack on Jericho. This story teaches us about God's protection and the rewards of faith and cooperation with His plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Rahab's action important for her family's safety?
2. How can we show trust in God's protection in our lives?

116: Crossing the Jordan River

Bible Story:

Joshua 3:14-17 - The Miracle at the Jordan River

Salvation Connection:

As the Israelites entered the Promised Land, God miraculously stopped the flow of the Jordan River during its flood stage, allowing them to cross on dry ground. This event highlights God's power and His active presence in guiding and helping His people.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this miracle teach us about God's power?
2. How can we remember to rely on God when facing obstacles?

117: Marching Around Jericho

Bible Story:

Joshua 6:3,4 - The March around Jericho

Salvation Connection:

The Israelites marched around Jericho thirteen times as instructed by God, and on the seventh day, the walls fell down. This teaches us the importance of obedience to God's instructions and the power of persistent faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to follow God's specific instructions?
2. What might happen if we are patient and follow what God asks us to do?

118: The Walls of Jericho

Bible Story:

Joshua 6:20 - The Fall of Jericho

Salvation Connection:

When the Israelites shouted at Joshua's command, the walls of Jericho collapsed. This victory demonstrated that with God, no barrier is too big, and He can make the impossible happen.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you think the Israelites felt when the walls fell?
2. Can you think of a time when God helped you overcome a big problem?

119: Achan's Sin and Ai's Defeat

Bible Story:

Joshua 7:1 - Achan's Sin Causes Defeat

Salvation Connection:

Achan's disobedience in taking forbidden items led to Israel's defeat at Ai, teaching us that our actions have consequences not only for ourselves but also for those around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Achan's mistake?
2. How can your actions affect others in your family or school?

120: The Sun Stands Still

Bible Story:

Joshua 10:12-13 - The Miracle at Gibeon

Salvation Connection:

During the battle at Gibeon, Joshua prayed, and God made the sun and moon stand still, giving the Israelites time to win. This miraculous event shows that God listens to our prayers and can do extraordinary things in response.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this miracle show about God's involvement in our lives?
2. How can we approach God with bold prayers like Joshua?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore biblical stories of faith, obedience, and God's miraculous interventions, encouraging them to see how these principles apply in their own lives today.

07-C

121: Gideon's Victory

Bible Story:

Judges 7:7 - Gideon Defeats the Midianites

Salvation Connection:

Gideon defeated the Midianites with only 300 men, showing that God can deliver great victories through small means when we trust Him. This story teaches us that God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Gideon show trust in God despite having fewer soldiers?
2. What can we learn from Gideon about facing big challenges with God's help?

122: Samson's Strength

Bible Story:

Judges 14:5-6 - Samson's Great Strength

Salvation Connection:

Samson's incredible strength came from God, and it allowed him to perform amazing feats. However, his story also warns us about the dangers of pride and misusing the gifts God gives us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways Samson used his strength?
2. How can we use our talents and gifts responsibly?

123: Delilah and Samson

Bible Story:

Judges 16:4-21 - Delilah Betrays Samson

Salvation Connection:

Delilah tricked Samson into revealing the secret of his strength, which led to his downfall. This story highlights the consequences of placing trust in the wrong people and drifting away from God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What mistake did Samson make with Delilah?
2. How can we make sure we are trusting the right friends?

124: Ruth's Loyalty

Bible Story:

Ruth 1:14-19 - Ruth Chooses to Follow Naomi

Salvation Connection:

Ruth, a Gentile, chose to follow the God of Israel because of her love for her mother-in-law Naomi. Her story is a beautiful example of loyalty and commitment, and it shows that God's family is open to all who choose to follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Ruth teach us about family and faith?
2. How can you show loyalty and kindness like Ruth?

125: King David's Lineage

Bible Story:

Ruth 4:22 - Ruth as the Great-Grandmother of David

Salvation Connection:

Ruth's decision to follow God led to her becoming the great-grandmother of David, Israel's greatest king. This lineage highlights how God's plans often extend far beyond what we can see.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Ruth's faithfulness impact her family's future?
2. What can we learn from how God used Ruth in His bigger plan?

126: Samuel Hears God

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 3:2-10 - God Calls Samuel

Salvation Connection:

As a child, Samuel heard God's voice calling him in the night. His response, "Speak, for your servant is listening," sets an example for us to be open and attentive to God's guidance.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Samuel show he was ready to listen to God?
2. What can we do to be better listeners to God's voice in our lives?

These Shorts encourage third graders to explore themes of trust, strength, betrayal, loyalty, lineage, and divine communication, helping them connect these ancient stories with their everyday experiences.

08-A

127: Samuel's Judgment

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 3:11-14 - Samuel's Message to Eli

Salvation Connection:

God asked Samuel to pronounce judgment on Eli, the priest, because Eli did not discipline his sons who were dishonoring God. This story teaches us about the importance of accountability and the consequences of ignoring wrongdoing.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for Eli to correct his sons?
2. How can we ensure we are responsible for our actions and the actions of those under our care?

128: The Ark of the Covenant

Bible Story:

Exodus 34:28; Deuteronomy 10:1-5; Hebrews 9:4 -

Description of the Ark

Salvation Connection:

The Ark of the Covenant was a sacred chest that held the Ten Commandments, manna, and Aaron's staff. It represented God's presence and covenant with Israel. This teaches us about God's holiness and the importance of His Word and promises.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the Ark of the Covenant symbolize about God's relationship with His people?
2. Why is it important to keep God's commands and remember His promises?

129: Israel Requests a King

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 8:4-5 - The Israelites Demand a King

Salvation Connection:

The Israelites wanted a king to be like other nations, which showed their desire to conform rather than to trust in God's unique plan for them. This story teaches us about the dangers of following worldly ways instead of God's ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it sometimes tempting to be like others rather than being different as God calls us to be?
2. How can we trust God's plan for us even when it's different from what others are doing?

130: Saul Becomes King

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 10:17-25 - Saul Anointed as King

Salvation Connection:

Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel, but his reign later showed the challenges of leadership without complete obedience to God. His story teaches us that true leadership requires humility and obedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. What qualities should a leader have according to Saul's story?

2. How can we be good leaders in our own lives?

131: Saul's Rejection by God

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 15:23 - Saul Disobeys God

Salvation Connection:

God rejected Saul as king because he failed to obey God's commands fully. This shows the importance of obedience in our relationship with God and that partial obedience is not enough.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened when Saul did not fully obey God?
2. Why is it important to follow all that God commands us?

132: David Chosen as King

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 16:1-13 - David Anointed as King

Salvation Connection:

After Saul, God chose David, a young shepherd, to be king because he was a man after God's own heart. This story teaches us that God values our heart's condition over our outward appearance or status.

Discussion Questions:

1. What qualities did David have that pleased God?
2. How can you develop a heart like David's that seeks to please God?

These Shorts help third graders understand biblical principles of leadership, obedience, and God's guidance, encouraging them to apply these lessons in their daily lives.

08-B

133: David and Goliath

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 17:23 - David Kills Goliath

Salvation Connection:

David's victory over Goliath with only a sling and a stone demonstrates that God can accomplish great things through those who trust Him. This story teaches us about faith in God's power over our fears and challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from David's courage when facing Goliath?
2. How can we rely on God's strength to face our own "giants"?

134: Joab, David's Commander

Bible Story:

1 Kings 1:19 - Joab's Role

Salvation Connection:

Joab, as the commander of David's army, played a critical role in securing David's kingdom. His leadership under David shows the importance of loyalty and strong leadership in achieving God's purposes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What qualities made Joab effective in his role?
2. Why is it important to have trustworthy leaders?

135: David's Respect for Saul

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 24:6 - David Spares Saul's Life

Salvation Connection:

David had the opportunity to kill Saul but chose not to because he respected God's anointing on Saul as king. This story teaches us about respecting authority and trusting God's timing for justice and leadership changes.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did David choose not to harm Saul?
2. How can we show respect for those in authority over us?

136: David's Reign as King

Bible Story:

2 Samuel 5:4-5 - David Rules for Forty Years

Salvation Connection:

David's 40-year reign as king is marked by both successes and challenges. His leadership shows us the complexities of governance and the importance of seeking God's guidance throughout our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the key events during David's reign?
2. What can we learn from David's way of ruling?

137: Jonathan's Friendship

Bible Story:

1 Samuel 18:1 - Jonathan and David Become Friends

Salvation Connection:

Jonathan, Saul's son, and David shared a deep friendship that exemplifies loyalty and selflessness. Their relationship teaches us about the value of true friendship and supporting each other in following God's path.

Discussion Questions:

1. What made Jonathan and David's friendship so strong?
2. How can you be a good friend like Jonathan was to David?

138: Kindness to Mephibosheth

Bible Story:

2 Samuel 9:1-7 - David and Mephibosheth

Salvation Connection:

David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, to honor his friendship with Jonathan. This act of kindness teaches us about loyalty, honoring commitments, and showing God's love through our actions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for David to show kindness to Mephibosheth?
2. How can we show kindness to others as a way to honor our commitments?

These Shorts help third graders understand important biblical themes such as courage, respect, leadership, friendship, and kindness through the life and experiences of King David.

08-C

139: Absalom's Rebellion

Bible Story:

2 Samuel 15:1-12 - Absalom Tries to Take the Kingdom

Salvation Connection:

Absalom's attempt to seize the kingdom from his father David teaches us about the consequences of ambition and betrayal. It highlights the importance of loyalty and respect within families and the painful outcomes of family conflicts.

Discussion Questions:

1. What led Absalom to act against his father?
2. How can we handle disagreements within our families in a respectful way?

140: Life in the Womb

Bible Story:

Psalms 139:13-16 - God Knows Us Before We Are Born

Salvation Connection:

David speaks about life beginning in the womb, emphasizing that God has a plan for us even before we are born. This teaches us about the sanctity of life and God's intimate knowledge and care for each of us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this Psalm teach us about when life begins?
2. How does knowing that God knew you before you were born make you feel?

141: Solomon's Made King

Bible Story:

1 Kings 1:32-35; 1 Chronicles 22:9 - Solomon Chosen as King

Salvation Connection:

David appointed Solomon as king as instructed by God, ensuring a peaceful transition of power. This teaches us about God's sovereignty in leadership and the importance of following God's guidance in decision-making.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God choose Solomon to be king?
2. What qualities do you think a good leader should have?

142: Solomon's Asks for Wisdom

Bible Story:

1 Kings 3:5-14 - Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Salvation Connection:

When Solomon became king, he asked God for wisdom to lead his people, showing his humility and understanding of what truly makes a great leader. This teaches us the value of wisdom over wealth or power.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is wisdom more important than having power or riches?
2. How can you ask God for wisdom in your own life?

143: Building the Temple

Bible Story:

1 Kings 6:1-2 - Solomon Builds the Temple

Salvation Connection:

Solomon built the Temple as a permanent place for worshiping God, fulfilling his father David's plan and God's instructions. This teaches us about dedication to God and the importance of creating spaces to worship and honor Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was significant about the Temple Solomon built?
2. How can we make our places of worship special?

144: Queen of Sheba & Solomon

Bible Story:

1 Kings 10:1 - The Queen of Sheba Visits

Salvation Connection:

The visit of the Queen of Sheba highlights Solomon's renowned wisdom and wealth that drew people from distant lands. It teaches us about the impact of godly wisdom and how it can influence others far and wide.

Discussion Questions:

1. What impressed the Queen of Sheba about Solomon?
2. How can using our gifts wisely inspire others?

These Shorts are designed to help third graders explore key biblical stories that teach lessons on leadership, wisdom, and God's plans for us, encouraging them to think about how these principles apply to their own lives.

09-A

145: The Kingdom Divides

Bible Story:

1 Kings 11:28-39, 42; 12:16-20 - Division of the Kingdom

Salvation Connection:

Upon Solomon's death, the kingdom of Israel was divided into Israel and Judah due to disobedience and strife. This division teaches us about the consequences of turning away from God's commands and the importance of unity and faithfulness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What led to the division of the kingdom?
2. How can we work to maintain unity and peace in our communities?

146: Jeroboam's Idol Worship

Bible Story:

1 Kings 12:26-30 - Jeroboam Leads Israel into Idolatry

Salvation Connection:

Jeroboam established idol worship to prevent his people from going to Jerusalem, showing a lack of trust in God's provision and leading his people into sin. This story teaches us about the dangers of leading others astray and the importance of following God alone.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it wrong for Jeroboam to set up idols?
2. How can we ensure we are leading others toward God and not away from Him?

147: Elijah on Mount Carmel

Bible Story:

1 Kings 18:30-39 - Elijah's Challenge on Mount Carmel

Salvation Connection:

Elijah asked God to send fire to consume his sacrifice to prove to Israel that God is the only true God. This dramatic display of God's power reminds us that God is mighty and always ready to reveal Himself to those who seek Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal?
2. How can we show our faith in God's power in our lives?

148: Ahab and Jezebel

Bible Story:

1 Kings 21:4-5 - Ahab and Jezebel's Wicked Rule

Salvation Connection:

Ahab and Jezebel were notorious for their evil deeds and led Israel further into idolatry. Their story warns us of the consequences of wicked leadership and the importance of godly character in those who lead.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Ahab and Jezebel's mistakes?
2. Why is it important to choose leaders who follow God?

149: Elijah Taken to Heaven

Bible Story:

2 Kings 2:11 - Elijah Taken Up in a Whirlwind

Salvation Connection:

Elijah being taken directly to heaven in a whirlwind is a powerful demonstration of God's favor and the miraculous end to a faithful life. This event teaches us about the rewards of a faithful life dedicated to serving God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was significant about the way Elijah was taken to heaven?
2. How does Elijah's life inspire you to serve God?

150: Elisha Succeeds Elijah

Bible Story:

2 Kings 2:15 - Elisha Becomes the Prophet

Salvation Connection:

Elisha succeeding Elijah as prophet demonstrates the continuation of God's work through different generations. Elisha's request for a double portion of Elijah's spirit shows his desire to fulfill God's call with even greater zeal.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Elisha taking over from Elijah teach us about mentorship?
2. How can we prepare to carry on good works from those before us?

These devotions encourage third graders to explore biblical stories that deal with leadership, obedience, and the power of God, helping them understand their importance in a modern context.

09-B

151: Naaman's Healing

Bible Story:

2 Kings 5:10-14 - Naaman Cured of Leprosy

Salvation Connection:

Naaman, a Syrian commander, was healed of leprosy by following the prophet Elisha's instruction to wash in the Jordan River. This story teaches us about humility, obedience, and God's power to heal and transform lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it hard for Naaman to follow Elisha's simple instructions?
2. How can we show obedience to God even when it seems difficult or doesn't make sense?

152: Hezekiah's Sign

Bible Story:

2 Kings 20:8-11 - The Sun Moves Backwards for Hezekiah

Salvation Connection:

God gave King Hezekiah a miraculous sign of the sun moving backwards to confirm his healing and extend his life. This demonstrates God's willingness to respond to prayer and His control over nature.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Hezekiah's story teach us about prayer and trust in God?
2. How can we rely on God's promises in difficult times?

153: The Exile to Babylon

Bible Story:

2 Kings 24:10-16 - The Captivity in Babylon

Salvation Connection:

Many people from Judah were taken captive to Babylon as a result of their continued disobedience and idolatry. This event teaches us about the consequences of turning away from God and the importance of faithfulness.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why were the people of Judah taken to Babylon?
2. What can we learn from their experience about following God's ways?

154: Nebuchadnezzar's Conquest

Bible Story:

2 Kings 24:10-16 - Nebuchadnezzar Conquers Jerusalem

Salvation Connection:

Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Jerusalem was a significant biblical event that led to the Babylonian captivity. This shows how God uses even difficult circumstances to fulfill His plans and teach His people important lessons.

Discussion Questions:

1. What role did Nebuchadnezzar play in the history of Israel?
2. How does knowing that God is in control help us during tough times?

155: Zerubbabel Rebuilds Temple

Bible Story:

Ezra 3:8 - Rebuilding the Temple

Salvation Connection:

Upon returning from exile, Zerubbabel led the efforts to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, signifying a renewal of faith and worship among the people. This teaches us about the importance of worship and having a dedicated place to connect with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was rebuilding the temple important for the Israelites?
2. How can we make our places of worship important in our lives?

156: Nehemiah Rebuilds Walls

Bible Story:

Nehemiah 2:4-8 - Nehemiah Leads the Rebuilding of Jerusalem's Walls

Salvation Connection:

Nehemiah's leadership in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls was crucial for the security and identity of the Israelites returning from exile. His dedication teaches us about perseverance, leadership, and the power of community effort in overcoming obstacles.

Discussion Questions:

1. What challenges did Nehemiah face while rebuilding the walls?
2. How can we work together to overcome challenges in our communities?

These devotions are designed to help third graders learn about God's healing, guidance, and provision, encouraging them to see how God works through history and in their own lives.

09-C

157: Esther Becomes Queen

Bible Story:

Esther 2:16-17 - Esther Crowned Queen of Persia

Salvation Connection:

Esther, a Jewish girl, became the queen of Persia and used her position to protect her people. Her story teaches us that God places us in specific situations for a purpose and that we can be courageous and stand up for what is right.

Discussion Questions:

1. What qualities did Esther show when she became queen?
2. How can you use your position, wherever you are, to help others?

158: Esther Saves Her People

Bible Story:

Esther 7:1-6 - Esther's Plea to the King

Salvation Connection:

Esther bravely saved her people from destruction by speaking to the king, her husband, risking her own life to plead for theirs. This shows the power of bravery and speaking out against injustice.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it risky for Esther to talk to the king?
2. Can you think of a time when you had to be brave to help someone else?

159: The Trials of Job

Bible Story:

Job 1:7-22 - Job's Initial Losses and Suffering

Salvation Connection:

Job experienced extreme losses and suffering but remained faithful to God. His endurance through trials teaches us about the importance of steadfast faith and trust in God no matter the circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Job show faithfulness to God during his trials?
2. What can we learn from Job about handling tough times?

160: Job's Restoration

Bible Story:

Job 42:10-13 - Job's Restoration

Salvation Connection:

After enduring severe trials and remaining faithful, Job was blessed by God with even greater prosperity than before. This illustrates God's justice and generosity in rewarding faithfulness and patience.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Job's restoration tell us about God's character?
2. How can this story encourage you when you feel like giving up?

161: Jeremiah, Weeping Prophet

Bible Story:

Jeremiah 9:1 - Jeremiah's Lament

Salvation Connection:

Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, expressed deep sorrow over the sins of his people and the resulting suffering. His life reminds us of the importance of having a compassionate heart and caring deeply about the spiritual state of those around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jeremiah weep for his people?
2. How can we show compassion to others who are in trouble or away from God?

162: Daniel Interprets the Dream

Bible Story:

Daniel 2:27-29 - Daniel Interprets Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Salvation Connection:

Daniel's ability to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream when no one else could demonstrates God's provision of wisdom and insight. This event shows that God equips His followers to serve in extraordinary ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Daniel show reliance on God's wisdom?
2. What can we do to seek God's wisdom in our lives?

These devotions are designed to help third graders explore significant biblical stories that teach about God's power, provision, and the importance of faithfulness and compassion.

10-A

163: Standing Firm in Faith

Bible Story:

Daniel 3:14-18 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Refuse to Bow

Salvation Connection:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship a golden statue. Their unwavering faith in God and His deliverance from the fire teach us about the power of standing firm in our beliefs, even under pressure.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the three friends show courage?
2. How can you stand up for what you believe in, even when it's hard?

164: Daniel's Faithful Prayer

Bible Story:

Daniel 6:10 - Daniel Prays Despite the Decree

Salvation Connection:

When a law was made against praying to anyone but the king, Daniel continued to pray to God faithfully. His commitment shows the importance of consistent prayer and trust in God, no matter the circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Daniel continue to pray even when it was against the law?
2. What can we learn from Daniel about prayer?

165: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Bible Story:

Daniel 6:4-16 - Daniel is Thrown into the Lions' Den

Salvation Connection:

Daniel's faithfulness led to him being thrown into a lions' den, but God miraculously saved him, proving His power and Daniel's faith. This story encourages us to remain faithful and trust in God's deliverance.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God protect Daniel in the lions' den?
2. How can we trust God to protect us in difficult situations?

166: The Handwriting on the Wall

Bible Story:

Daniel 5:25-30 - The Fall of Belshazzar's Kingdom

Salvation Connection:

The mysterious handwriting on the wall during King Belshazzar's party foretold the end of his kingdom, which occurred that very night. This teaches us about God's sovereignty and judgment over nations and leaders.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the message of the handwriting on the wall?
2. How does this story show that God is in control?

167: Jonah and the Great Fish

Bible Story:

Jonah 1:17 - Jonah Swallowed by a Great Fish

Salvation Connection:

Jonah was swallowed by a great fish when he tried to flee from God's command. This dramatic event leads to his repentance and teaches us about God's mercy and our need to follow His directions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jonah try to run away from God?
2. What can we learn from Jonah about obeying God?

168: Jonah's Message to Nineveh

Bible Story:

Jonah 3:5-10 - Nineveh Repents

Salvation Connection:

When Jonah finally preached to Nineveh, the people repented, and God forgave them. This shows God's willingness to forgive and the power of repentance and obedience to change outcomes.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's message?
2. How does this story teach us about God's forgiveness?

These devotions help third graders understand the importance of faithfulness, prayer, and obedience through the powerful stories of Daniel and Jonah, encouraging them to live boldly and faithfully in their own lives.

10-B

169: The Prophecy of Bethlehem

Bible Story:

Micah 5:2 - The Messiah to Be Born in Bethlehem

Salvation Connection:

Micah's prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem points to God's detailed plan for our salvation. Jesus' birth in this small town fulfills God's promise, showing that no detail in God's plan is too small.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it significant that Jesus was born in Bethlehem?
2. How does God show His plans are perfect through prophecies?

170: Jesus and Mount of Olives

Bible Story:

Zechariah 14:4 - Jesus' Return to the Mount of Olives

Salvation Connection:

Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would stand on the Mount of Olives upon His return, marking a momentous event in Christian faith that promises hope and redemption for believers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What will happen when Jesus returns to the Mount of Olives?
2. How does knowing about Jesus' return give us hope?

171: The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Bible Story:

Luke 1:26-33 - Gabriel Announces Christ's Birth to Mary

Salvation Connection:

The angel Gabriel's visit to Mary brought the message that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah. This divine encounter highlights God's sovereignty and the importance of saying yes to God's plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Mary react to Gabriel's message?
2. What can we learn from Mary's response to God's plan for her life?

172: Mary and Joseph

Bible Story:

Matthew 1:18 - Mary Engaged to Joseph

Salvation Connection:

Mary and Joseph's engagement took on divine significance as they became the earthly parents of Jesus. Their commitment to each other and to God's plan sets an example of faithfulness and obedience.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Joseph show faithfulness to Mary and God's plan?
2. Why is it important to be faithful and trustworthy like Joseph?

173: Shepherds Hear the News

Bible Story:

Luke 2:9-16 - Shepherds Visit Jesus

Salvation Connection:

The shepherds were among the first to hear of Jesus' birth, showing God's favor towards the humble and faithful. Their immediate visit to see Jesus teaches us about responding swiftly to God's revelations.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God chose shepherds to hear the news first?
2. How can we respond when we hear good news from God?

174: Wise Men Worship Jesus

Bible Story:

Luke 2:16-20; Matthew 2:1,2 - Shepherds and Wise Men Worship Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Both shepherds and wise men came to worship Jesus, showing that He came for all people, from the humblest to the wisest. Their worship models for us how to recognize and honor Christ as Lord.

Discussion Questions:

1. What different ways did the shepherds and wise men worship Jesus?
2. How can we show our worship and adoration for Jesus today?

These devotions help third graders understand the profound events surrounding Jesus' birth and early recognition as the Messiah, emphasizing the themes of prophecy, humility, and worship.

10-C

175: The Wise Men's Quest*

Bible Story:

When the Wise Men came seeking Jesus, what question did they ask?

Matthew 2:2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"

Salvation Connection:

The Wise Men asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?" as they sought Jesus. This demonstrates the importance of seeking Jesus in our lives and recognizing Him as our King.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the Wise Men want to find Jesus?
2. How can we seek Jesus in our daily lives?

176: King Herod's Reign

Bible Story:

Matthew 2:3 - King Herod During Jesus' Birth

Salvation Connection:

Herod was king when Jesus was born and felt threatened by the birth of a new "king." This story teaches us about the conflict between earthly power and God's plans.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Herod react to the news of Jesus' birth?
2. Why is it important to welcome Jesus as King in our lives?

177: The Star Guides the Wise Men

Bible Story:

Matthew 2:2 - The Star Leads to Jesus

Salvation Connection:

The Wise Men followed a star that led them to Jesus, symbolizing the light of Christ guiding us to Him. This teaches us to follow the guidance God provides in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the star represent in the story of the Wise Men?
2. How can we look for God's guidance in our lives?

178: Gifts for the King

Bible Story:

Matthew 2:11 - Gifts of the Wise Men

Salvation Connection:

The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to Jesus by the Wise Men symbolize His kingship, deity, and the sacrifice He would make for us. This teaches us about giving honorably and recognizing Jesus' roles in our salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do each of the gifts represent?
2. What gifts can we give to Jesus?

179: Jesus Grows Up in Nazareth

Bible Story:

Matthew 2:23 - Jesus' Early Life in Nazareth

Salvation Connection:

Jesus grew up in Nazareth, fulfilling prophecy and showing that God can use any beginnings, no matter how humble. This teaches us that our background does not limit what God can do through us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant that Jesus came from Nazareth?
2. How can God use you, no matter where you are from?

180: John the Baptist & the Way

Bible Story:

John 3:26-28 - John the Baptist's Ministry

Salvation Connection:

John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus, preaching repentance and baptizing people. His ministry teaches us about preparing our hearts for Jesus and helping others to know Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did John prepare people for Jesus?
2. How can we help prepare our friends and family to know more about Jesus?

These devotions help third graders understand the early life of Jesus, the roles of those around Him, and the ways in which His story connects with our lives today, emphasizing seeking, following, and preparing for Jesus.

11-A

181: Jesus Begins His Ministry

Bible Story:

Luke 3:23 - Jesus Starts His Ministry at Thirty

Salvation Connection:

Jesus began His public ministry around the age of thirty, marking the start of His active work of teaching, healing, and guiding people towards God. This teaches us that there are significant moments in our lives where we are called to start new journeys or missions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus waited until he was thirty to start His ministry?
2. What important tasks can we prepare for even at a young age?

182: Duration of Jesus' Ministry

Bible Story:

General Reference to Jesus' Ministry Duration

Salvation Connection:

Jesus preached and taught for about three and a half years, during which He impacted countless lives through His words and miracles. This period shows us the power of dedication and the impact a short time can have when driven by God's purpose.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we accomplish in a short time if we are dedicated?
2. How can Jesus' ministry inspire us to share and help others?

183: John Introduces Jesus*

Bible Story:

With what words did John the Baptist introduce Jesus?

John 1:29 "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Salvation Connection:

When John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," he was highlighting Jesus' mission as the Savior. This teaches us about the sacrifice Jesus was to make for us all.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Lamb of God?
2. How can we help others understand this important truth?

184: Jesus' Baptism

Bible Story:

Matthew 3:11 - John Describes Jesus' Baptism

Salvation Connection:

John described that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, indicating a transformative and powerful form of baptism that would change lives. This shows us how Jesus brings profound changes into the lives of those who follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire?
2. How can this type of baptism change a person?

185: Matthew the Tax Collector

Bible Story:

Matthew 10:3 - Matthew's Calling

Salvation Connection:

Matthew, a tax collector, was called to be a disciple of Jesus, illustrating that Jesus welcomes everyone, no matter their past, to follow Him and be transformed.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Matthew's previous job as a tax collector significant?
2. How does Jesus' acceptance of Matthew encourage us about who can follow Jesus?

186: Andrew's Declaration

Bible Story:

John 1:40-41 - Andrew Tells Peter About Jesus

Salvation Connection:

After meeting Jesus, Andrew immediately told his brother Simon Peter that they had found the Messiah. This illustrates the natural desire to share great news with others, especially those we love, about finding Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for Andrew to tell his brother about Jesus?
2. Who can you share the good news about Jesus with?

These devotions help third graders learn about significant events and teachings in Jesus' ministry, encouraging them to think about their own roles in sharing and living out their faith.

11-B

187: Jesus' First Miracle

Bible Story:

John 2:1-11 - Turning Water into Wine

Salvation Connection:

Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding in Cana by turning water into wine. This miracle not only helped the wedding hosts but also revealed His divine power and glory, encouraging His disciples' faith in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose this miracle as His first?
2. What can this miracle teach us about how Jesus cares for our needs?

188: Nicodemus Seeks Jesus

Bible Story:

John 3:1 - Nicodemus Visits Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Nicodemus, a Jewish leader, came to Jesus at night with questions about eternal life. This encounter highlights the importance of seeking the truth and the new birth Jesus offers to those who believe in Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What important lesson did Jesus teach Nicodemus?
2. Why is it important to ask questions about our faith?

189: Jesus' Baptism

Bible Story:

Matthew 3:13 - Baptism in the Jordan River

Salvation Connection:

John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, marking the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. At His baptism, God showed His approval, affirming Jesus' identity and mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus' baptism tell us about His relationship with God?
2. How does our own baptism connect us to Jesus?

190: Divine Approval at Baptism

Bible Story:

Matthew 3:16-17 - God Speaks at Jesus' Baptism

Salvation Connection:

At Jesus' baptism, God expressed His pleasure in Jesus and affirmed Him as His Son with the Holy Spirit's descent. This event underscores Jesus' divine sonship and mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God show His approval of Jesus at the baptism?
2. What does it mean to us that Jesus is God's Son?

191: Temptation in the Wilderness

Bible Story:

Matthew 4:2 - Forty Days of Fasting and Temptation

Salvation Connection:

Jesus fasted for 40 days and faced temptations from Satan, yet He did not sin. This shows His strength and commitment to God's plan, serving as a model for us in resisting temptation.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jesus resist temptation?
2. What strategies can we use to overcome temptations in our lives?

192: Calling of the First Apostles

Bible Story:

Matthew 4:18-22 - The First Four Apostles Follow Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, transforming their lives from fishermen to fishers of men. This teaches us about Jesus' call to all believers to spread the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus mean by making them "fishers of men"?
2. How can you follow Jesus' call in your life today?

These devotions help third graders explore foundational events in Jesus' ministry, encouraging them to understand His teachings and how they can apply these lessons in their own lives.

11-C

193: The Beatitudes

Bible Story:

Matthew 5:2-11 - The Beatitudes

Salvation Connection:

The Beatitudes begin Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, describing the blessings that come with various spiritual qualities like meekness and mercy. These teachings encourage us to live in ways that reflect God's kingdom and promise His blessings in return.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit" or "meek"?
2. How can you show one of the Beatitudes in your life this week?

194: Jesus Calms the Storm

Bible Story:

Matthew 8:23-27 - Calming the Storm

Salvation Connection:

Jesus demonstrated His power over nature by calming a stormy sea, showing His disciples and us that He is sovereign over all creation. This miracle teaches us to trust in Jesus' power and presence in our lives, especially during turbulent times.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the disciples react during the storm?
2. What can you do when you feel scared or worried?

195: Gift to Herod's Stepdaughter

Bible Story:

Matthew 14:6-11 - The Death of John the Baptist

Salvation Connection:

King Herod made a rash promise that led to him giving his stepdaughter the head of John the Baptist. This tragic event shows the consequences of sinful actions and decisions made without regard for righteousness.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Herod's mistake?
2. Why is it important to think carefully before making promises?

196: The Transfiguration

Bible Story:

Matthew 17:1-8 - The Transfiguration of Jesus

Salvation Connection:

During the Transfiguration, Jesus revealed His divine glory to Peter, James, and John, reaffirming His identity as the Son of God. This event strengthens our faith in Jesus' divinity and His fulfillment of the Law and the prophets.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Peter want to do during the Transfiguration?
2. How does knowing about Jesus' divine nature affect your faith?

197: The Rich Young Leader

Bible Story:

Matthew 19:16-22 - The Rich Young Ruler

Salvation Connection:

The rich young leader could not follow Jesus because he was too attached to his possessions. His story challenges us to consider what may be keeping us from fully following Jesus and to prioritize our spiritual over material wealth.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it hard for the young man to follow Jesus?
2. What things might make it hard for you to follow Jesus completely?

198: The Temple's Destruction

Bible Story:

Mark 13:1-2 - Prophecy of the Temple's Destruction

Salvation Connection:

Jesus prophesied the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, which was fulfilled in A.D. 70. This prophecy highlights the impermanence of earthly structures compared to God's eternal kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus mean by saying not one stone would be left on another?
2. How can we focus on building up treasures in heaven rather than on earth?

These devotions are designed to help third graders understand important teachings and events from Jesus' life, encouraging them to reflect on their spiritual growth and relationship with God.

12-A

199: Peter's Confession of Faith*

Bible Story:

What great statement did Peter make about Jesus?

Matthew 16:16 "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Salvation Connection:

When Peter declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," he expressed a fundamental truth about Jesus' identity. This moment highlights the importance of recognizing and confessing who Jesus is in our own lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Peter's statement important?
2. How can we show that we believe Jesus is the Messiah?

200: Jesus' Close Friends

Bible Story:

Matthew 17:1 - Jesus Takes Peter, James, and John to the Transfiguration

Salvation Connection:

Peter, James, and John were among Jesus' closest disciples, sharing special moments like the Transfiguration. This teaches us about the value of close friendships and sharing our spiritual journeys with others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What special roles did these three disciples have?
2. Who are your close friends and how do you help each other grow in faith?

201: The Foolish Builder

Bible Story:

Matthew 7:26 - The Foolish Man Builds on Sand

Salvation Connection:

Jesus likened those who hear His words but do not act on them to a foolish man who built his house on sand. This parable teaches us about the importance of not only hearing Jesus' words but also applying them in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens to the house built on sand?
2. How can we make sure we are not like the foolish builder?

202: The Wise Builder

Bible Story:

Matthew 7:24 - The Wise Man Builds on the Rock

Salvation Connection:

Contrary to the foolish builder, the wise builder who constructs his house on rock represents those who hear and follow Jesus' teachings. This emphasizes the stability and security found in living according to God's Word.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the house on the rock stand strong?
2. How can you build your life on Jesus' teachings?

203: The Good Samaritan

Bible Story:

Luke 10:30-37 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Salvation Connection:

The Good Samaritan parable teaches us about compassion and helping those in need, regardless of their background. It challenges us to be kind and helpful to everyone, just as we hope others would be to us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Samaritan helped the man, unlike the others?
2. How can you be a Good Samaritan in your community?

204: The Parable of the Sower

Bible Story:

Mark 4:14 - The Sower and the Seeds

Salvation Connection:

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus compared the seed to the Word of God, explaining how different responses to His teachings affect spiritual growth. This parable encourages us to be receptive to God's word and let it deeply root in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the different ways people react to God's Word in the parable?
2. What kind of soil do you want to be for God's Word?

These devotions help third graders grasp key moments and teachings from Jesus' life, aiming to deepen their understanding and application of His words in their daily lives.

12-B

205: Jesus on Material Possessions

Bible Story:

Luke 12:15 - Warning Against Greed

Salvation Connection:

Jesus taught that life is not about accumulating material possessions but finding richness in spiritual fulfillment. This lesson encourages us to value what truly matters—relationships, faith, and service to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Jesus say life is not about having a lot of possessions?
2. What are some ways we can focus on spiritual rather than material riches?

206: Healing the Man Born Blind

Bible Story:

John 9:1-7 - Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Salvation Connection:

Jesus healed a man born blind using mud and a washing in the pool, showing His power to physically and spiritually restore sight. This miracle teaches us about Jesus' compassion and the transformative power of following His instructions.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from the way Jesus healed the blind man?
2. How can trusting and obeying Jesus bring change in our lives?

207: The Prodigal Son

Bible Story:

Luke 15:11-32 - The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Salvation Connection:

This parable shows the forgiveness and unconditional love of a father for his wayward son, symbolizing God's infinite grace towards us when we repent and return to Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the father's reaction teach us about God's love?
2. How can we show forgiveness like the father in this parable?

208: Jesus on Paying Taxes

Bible Story:

Matthew 22:15-22 - Render to Caesar

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' wise answer about paying taxes to Caesar while honoring God teaches us about the balance between civic duties and spiritual obligations. It reminds us to give God what is truly His—our hearts and devotion.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to give God what belongs to God?
2. How can we honor God in our everyday lives?

209: Feeding the Five Thousand

Bible Story:

John 6:1-9 - The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' feeding of the five thousand with just five loaves and two fish demonstrates His miraculous provision and compassion. It teaches us that Jesus can multiply our small offerings to fulfill great needs.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Jesus show His power during the feeding of the 5000?
2. What small things can you offer to Jesus to use for helping others?

210: Zacchaeus in the Tree

Bible Story:

Luke 19:1-6 - Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Zacchaeus' effort to see Jesus by climbing a tree shows his eagerness to change his life, leading to his personal encounter with Jesus. This story encourages us to seek Jesus earnestly, no matter what obstacles we face.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?
2. What can you do to learn more about Jesus and grow closer to Him?

These devotions help third graders understand key teachings and miracles of Jesus, fostering a deeper connection with Him and encouraging practical applications of faith in their lives.

12-C

211: The Triumphal Entry

Bible Story:

Matthew 21:2-5; Luke 19:29-35; John 12:14-15 - Jesus Enters Jerusalem on a Donkey

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilled ancient prophecies and symbolized peace. This humble arrival teaches us about the nature of Jesus' kingship—one marked by humility and peace rather than earthly power.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus choose to ride on a donkey?
2. How can we show humility in our lives?

212: Jesus Teaches Humility

Bible Story:

John 13:1-17 - Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

Salvation Connection:

By washing His disciples' feet, Jesus demonstrated profound humility and service, setting an example for us to follow in serving others with love and humility.

Discussion Questions:

1. What lesson was Jesus teaching by washing the disciples' feet?
2. How can you serve others around you?

213: Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Bible Story:

Matthew 26:36 - Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Salvation Connection:

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed intensely before His crucifixion, showing His human vulnerability and reliance on the Father. This teaches us about the importance of prayer in facing life's challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Jesus' prayers in Gethsemane?
2. How can prayer help you in difficult times?

214: Judas Betrays Jesus

Bible Story:

Matthew 26:17-25 - Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Judas' betrayal of Jesus for money is a tragic example of misplaced priorities. It warns us of the danger of letting greed or other sins overshadow our commitment to Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is Judas' betrayal significant?
2. What can we do to stay faithful to Jesus?

215: The Kiss of Betrayal

Bible Story:

Matthew 26:49 - Judas Betrays Jesus with a Kiss

Salvation Connection:

Judas identified Jesus to the soldiers with a kiss, an act of betrayal disguised as a gesture of affection. This highlights the deceitfulness of sin and the importance of sincerity in our actions.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Judas' action teach us about trust and betrayal?
2. How can we ensure our actions match our words?

216: Peter's Denial Predicted

Bible Story:

Matthew 26:34 - Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

Salvation Connection:

Jesus foretold Peter's denial, demonstrating His knowledge of our human weaknesses. Peter's eventual repentance and restoration show God's readiness to forgive, encouraging us to seek forgiveness and strengthen our faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus predict about Peter?
2. How can we recover from mistakes and grow stronger in our faith?

These devotions help third graders understand significant events from the last days of Jesus' earthly ministry, encouraging them to learn lessons of humility, prayer, faithfulness, and repentance.

13-A

217: Barabbas Released

Bible Story:

Matthew 27:15-21 - Barabbas Chosen Over Jesus

Salvation Connection:

The crowd chose to release Barabbas, a criminal, instead of Jesus, who was innocent. This event illustrates the depth of Jesus' sacrifice, taking our place even when we do not deserve His mercy.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the people chose Barabbas over Jesus?
2. What does this tell us about Jesus' love for us?

218: Golgotha Explained

Bible Story:

Matthew 27:33 - Golgotha, the Place of the Skull

Salvation Connection:

The name "Golgotha" symbolizes the grim nature of Jesus' crucifixion site. It was here that Jesus bore the sins of the world, highlighting the seriousness of sin and the magnitude of His sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the name "Golgotha" suggest about the place where Jesus was crucified?
2. Why is it important to understand the sacrifice Jesus made?

219: The Inscription on the Cross

Bible Story:

Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; John 19:19 - The Title Above Jesus' Cross

Salvation Connection:

The inscription "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" was intended to mock Jesus, but it spoke a profound truth about His kingship and identity. This teaches us that Jesus is our true King, even in times of suffering.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the title on Jesus' cross tell us about who He is?
2. How can we honor Jesus as our King today?

220: The Crucifixion

Bible Story:

Matthew 27:35 - The Crucifixion of Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Jesus' death by crucifixion was a fulfillment of prophecies and the means through which He offered salvation to the world. It shows His immense love and willingness to suffer for humanity's redemption.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus' death on the cross mean for us?
2. How can we show gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice?

221: Nature and the Crucifixion

Bible Story:

Matthew 27:45, 51 - Supernatural Events at the Crucifixion

Salvation Connection:

The darkness and earthquake at the time of Jesus' crucifixion signify the cosmic significance of His death and the sorrow of creation at His suffering. This demonstrates how all of creation is connected to God's redemptive plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the darkening of the sun and the earthquake symbolize?
2. How does it make you feel to know that nature itself responded to Jesus' death?

222: The Centurion's Confession

Bible Story:

Matthew 27:54 - The Centurion's Realization

Salvation Connection:

The Roman officer's declaration that Jesus was the Son of God after witnessing the events surrounding His crucifixion underscores the divine truth of Jesus' identity. It reminds us that Jesus' divinity is evident even in His darkest moments.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the Roman officer conclude that Jesus was the Son of God?
2. What evidence of Jesus' divinity have you seen in your life?

These devotions aim to deepen third graders' understanding of the crucial events of Jesus' crucifixion and its profound implications for believers, encouraging a deeper appreciation of His sacrifice and love.

13-B

223: Joseph of Arimathea & Nic

Bible Story:

John 19:38,39 - The Burial of Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, both members of the Sanhedrin but secret followers of Jesus, courageously came forward to care for Jesus' body after His crucifixion. Their actions show the importance of bravery and respect in serving God, even in difficult circumstances.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it brave for Joseph and Nicodemus to bury Jesus?
2. How can we show respect and care for what belongs to God?

224: Mary Magdalene Sees Jesus

Bible Story:

John 20:1-18 - Mary Magdalene Meets the Risen Jesus

Salvation Connection:

Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after His resurrection, which emphasizes her and the special role women played in Jesus' ministry. Her encounter shows us that Jesus appears to those who seek Him earnestly.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was Mary's reaction to seeing Jesus alive?
2. How can we show our love to Jesus like Mary did?

225: Angel Rolls Away the Stone

Bible Story:

Matthew 28:2 - The Angel at the Tomb

Salvation Connection:

An angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb, not to let Jesus out but to show He was already risen. This miraculous act signifies that nothing can hinder God's power and plan, including death.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the open tomb represent for Christians?
2. How does knowing that Jesus overcame death change how you live?

226: Doubting Thomas

Bible Story:

John 20:24-29 - Thomas Doubts and Believes

Salvation Connection:

Thomas initially doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw and touched Jesus' wounds. This story teaches us about the blessings of believing without seeing and the importance of faith based on trust in God's word.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Thomas doubt Jesus had risen?
2. What helps you believe in things you cannot see?

227: Jesus' Ascension

Bible Story:

Acts 1:1-9 - The Ascension of Jesus

Salvation Connection:

After teaching His disciples for forty days, Jesus ascended into heaven, promising the Holy Spirit's arrival. This event not only marked the completion of His earthly ministry but also the beginning of His followers' mission to spread the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus promise His disciples before He ascended?
2. How can we continue Jesus' mission today?

228: Matthias Chosen as Apostle

Bible Story:

Acts 1:23-26 - Matthias Replaces Judas

Salvation Connection:

The disciples chose Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot, ensuring that the group of twelve remained complete to witness Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This teaches us about God's restoration and the importance of community in fulfilling God's work.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important to replace Judas?
2. How does each member of a team help fulfill a bigger plan?

These devotions are designed to help third graders learn about significant events from the death and resurrection of Jesus to the early actions of His disciples, emphasizing faith, witness, and the continuation of Jesus' mission on earth.

13-C

229: The Upper Room Gathering

Bible Story:

Acts 1:15 - 120 Wait for the Holy Spirit

Salvation Connection:

About 120 believers gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem, united in prayer and waiting for the Holy Spirit as Jesus had promised. This story teaches us about the power of communal prayer and waiting on God's timing.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think it was important for the believers to wait together?
2. How can we practice patience and faith while waiting for God's promises?

230: The Day of Pentecost

Bible Story:

Acts 2:1-4 - The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Salvation Connection:

On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given to the Church, empowering the believers to speak in different tongues and boldly proclaim the gospel. This event shows us that God equips His followers with what they need to fulfill His mission.

Discussion Questions:

1. What changes did the Holy Spirit bring to the disciples?
2. How can the Holy Spirit help us in our daily lives?

231: Joel's Prophecy Fulfilled

Bible Story:

Acts 2:16 - Joel's Prophecy about the Holy Spirit

Salvation Connection:

The prophet Joel had foretold the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was fulfilled at Pentecost. This connection between the Old and New Testaments demonstrates God's consistent plan for humanity's redemption.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant that Joel's prophecy was fulfilled?
2. What does this teach us about how God communicates with us through the Bible?

232: Peter's Sermon Results

Bible Story:

Acts 2:41 - 3,000 People Baptized

Salvation Connection:

Following Peter's powerful sermon on the Day of Pentecost, about 3,000 people were moved to accept the message of Jesus and were baptized. This illustrates the impact of the Holy Spirit in spreading the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. What made Peter's sermon so effective?
2. How can we share our faith with others?

233: Peter Heals a Lame Man*

Bible Story:

What did Peter say to the lame man at the temple gate?
Acts 3:6 "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

Salvation Connection:

Peter used the name of Jesus Christ to heal a lame man, which not only transformed the man's life but also proved the power in the name of Jesus. This teaches us about the authority and power we have through Jesus to make a difference.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this miracle teach us about Jesus' power?
2. How can we use Jesus' name to help others?

234 Sin of Ananias and Sapphira

Bible Story:

Acts 5:3 - The Sin of Lying to the Holy Spirit

Salvation Connection:

Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit about their donation to the church, leading to their sudden deaths. This severe lesson warns us about the seriousness of being truthful and transparent in our dealings with God and others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was wrong with Ananias and Sapphira's actions?
2. Why is honesty important in our relationship with God and others?

These devotions help third graders understand critical moments in the early Christian church, emphasizing the importance of faith, honesty, and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

14-A

235: Rejoicing in Suffering

Bible Story:

Acts 5:40-42 - The Apostles Rejoice After Being Beaten

Salvation Connection:

The apostles rejoiced after suffering for preaching about Jesus because they felt honored to be deemed worthy to suffer for His name. This teaches us that suffering for doing good, especially for our faith, can be a cause for joy because it connects us more deeply with Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the apostles feel happy even after being hurt?
2. How can we find strength and joy in difficult situations for our faith?

236: Stephen, the First Martyr

Bible Story:

Acts 7:59 - Stephen is Stoned

Salvation Connection:

Stephen's martyrdom marks him as the first Christian to die for his faith in Jesus Christ. His steadfast faith and forgiveness towards his attackers show us the strength and grace that comes from believing in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What can we learn from Stephen's bravery and forgiveness?
2. How can we stand firm in our beliefs even when it's hard?

237: The Apostle John

Bible Story:

Church History - John, the Apostle

Salvation Connection:

According to tradition, John was the only one of the original twelve apostles who was not martyred. His life, filled with leadership and teachings, including the Book of Revelation, reminds us that God has unique plans and purposes for each believer.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think John's life was different from the other apostles?
2. What special role do you think God has for you?

238: Saul's Journey to Damascus

Bible Story:

Acts 9:1-2 - Saul's Intentions to Arrest Christians

Salvation Connection:

Saul of Tarsus started as a fierce opponent of Christians but was on a journey that God would turn into a powerful testimony of transformation. This shows that anyone's heart can change through Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was Saul planning to do in Damascus?

2. Can you think of a time when someone changed for the better unexpectedly?

239: Saul's Conversion

Bible Story:

Acts 9:3-9 - Saul's Conversion on the Road to Damascus

Salvation Connection:

Saul's dramatic encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus transformed him from a persecutor of Christians to a devoted follower of Christ. This teaches us about God's power to change even the hardest hearts.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happened to Saul near Damascus?
2. How does Saul's story inspire us to believe in the power of transformation?

240: Tabitha Raised from the Dead

Bible Story:

Acts 9:36-41 - Peter Raises Dorcas

Salvation Connection:

Tabitha was brought back to life through Peter's prayer, showcasing the miraculous power of God working through His apostles. Her resurrection not only affirmed the power of prayer but also strengthened the faith of all who knew her.

Discussion Questions:

1. What miracle did Peter perform for Tabitha?
2. How can we use our faith to help others in need?

These devotions are designed to help third graders explore and understand the early challenges and miracles experienced by the apostles, emphasizing themes of faith, transformation, and God's power.

14-B

241: Cornelius Calls for Peter

Bible Story:

Acts 10:1 - Cornelius, the Roman Officer

Salvation Connection:

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, recognized the importance of hearing God's word and sent for Peter to come and share the gospel with him and his household. This story illustrates that God's message of salvation is for everyone, regardless of nationality or background.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it significant that Cornelius, a Roman, wanted to hear about Jesus?
2. How can we share God's love with people who are different from us?

242: The Holy Spirit Falls

Bible Story:

Acts 10:44-48 - The Holy Spirit Comes to Cornelius's House

Salvation Connection:

While Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the message, demonstrating that the gift of the Holy Spirit was not just for Jews but for all believers. This event highlights the inclusiveness of God's kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit came to all who were listening?
2. How can we make sure everyone feels welcome in our church or community?

243: First Called Christians

Bible Story:

Acts 11:26 - Believers Called Christians in Antioch

Salvation Connection:

The disciples were first called "Christians" in Antioch because of their Christ-like behavior. This marks the importance of living in a way that clearly identifies us as followers of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be called a Christian?
2. How can we live so that others know we follow Jesus?

244: Peter's Miraculous Escape

Bible Story:

Acts 12:6-11 - Peter Escapes from Prison

Salvation Connection:

An angel helped Peter escape from prison, showing God's power to deliver His people in miraculous ways. This teaches us about God's ability to rescue us from difficult situations when we trust Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God help Peter escape from prison?
2. Can you think of a time when God helped you out of a tough situation?

245: Barnabas and Paul's Journey

Bible Story:

Acts 13:1-4 - Barnabas Accompanies Paul

Salvation Connection:

Barnabas, known for his encouragement, joined Paul on his first missionary journey. Their partnership teaches us about the value of supporting one another in spreading the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for Paul to have Barnabas with him?
2. How can we support our friends in doing good things?

246: Paul's Persecution at Lystra

Bible Story:

Acts 14:11-20 - Paul Stoned at Lystra

Salvation Connection:

After being mistaken for a god and then stoned, Paul was miraculously healed by God. This incident shows the trials Paul endured to spread the gospel and God's protective hand over His messengers.

Discussion Questions:

1. What challenges did Paul face in spreading Jesus' message?
2. How does Paul's perseverance inspire us to keep going, even when things are hard?

These devotions encourage third graders to learn from the early church's experiences, highlighting themes of inclusivity, deliverance, and steadfast faith in God's plan and protection.

14-C

247: Paul's Call to Macedonia

Bible Story:

Acts 16:9-10 - The Macedonian Call

Salvation Connection:

Paul's vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help was a direct guidance from God, showing how God can lead us to help others in need. This teaches us to be attentive to God's call and ready to act when He directs us.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Paul know he needed to go to Macedonia?
2. How can we listen for God's guidance in our lives?

248: Paul's Companions

Bible Story:

Acts 15:40; 16:1 - Silas and Timothy Join Paul

Salvation Connection:

Silas and Timothy were vital companions to Paul on his second missionary journey. Their support and teamwork exemplify the importance of collaboration in accomplishing God's work.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was it important for Paul to have helpers like Silas and Timothy?
2. How can working together help us do better in school or at church?

249: Luke the Evangelist

Bible Story:

Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1 - Luke Writes the Gospel and Acts

Salvation Connection:

Luke, the author of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, played a crucial role in documenting the life of Jesus and the early church. His writings help us understand the history and foundation of our faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important that Luke wrote these books of the Bible?
2. How can we share what we learn about Jesus with others?

250: Luke's Profession

Bible Story:

Colossians 4:14 - Luke the Doctor

Salvation Connection:

Luke was not only a historian and a follower of Paul but also a doctor, which highlights the diverse backgrounds of early Christians. This teaches us that people from all professions can use their skills to serve God and the community.

Discussion Questions:

1. How might Luke have used his skills as a doctor to help others?
2. What skills do you have that can be used to help people?

251: Paul & the Philippian Jailer*

Bible Story:

What did Paul tell the Philippian jailer to do in order to be saved?

Acts 16:31 "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."

Salvation Connection:

Paul's simple message to the Philippian jailer emphasizes that belief in Jesus is the key to salvation. This encounter highlights the transformative power of faith, not only for the individual but for their entire household.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Paul say was needed to be saved?
2. How can believing in Jesus change a person's life?

252: Aquila and Priscilla

Bible Story:

Acts 18:1-3 - Paul Meets Aquila and Priscilla

Salvation Connection:

Aquila and Priscilla were tentmakers like Paul and became his close collaborators in ministry. Their story shows how ordinary work and skills can be used for extraordinary purposes in God's plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Aquila and Priscilla help Paul?
2. What ordinary things can we do that might be used by God to help others?

These devotions are designed to help third graders explore how God calls and uses different people for His purpose, encouraging them to see their potential to serve and share their faith in everyday life.

15-A

253: Burning Witchcraft Books

Bible Story:

Acts 19:18-19 - Ephesians Burn Witchcraft Books

Salvation Connection:

When the people of Ephesus turned to God, they burned their books of witchcraft as a sign of their new commitment to follow Christ. This dramatic act shows the importance of removing anything that distracts or detracts from our relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did the Ephesians burn their books?
2. What are some things we might need to give up to follow God more closely?

254: Obey Your Parents

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:1 - Children, Obey Your Parents

Salvation Connection:

Paul's instruction to children to obey their parents reflects God's design for family order and harmony. This obedience is pleasing to God and brings blessings to our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to obey our parents?
2. What are some ways you can show obedience at home?

255: Equality Before God

Bible Story:

2 Chronicles 19:7; Romans 2:11 - God Treats All People Alike

Salvation Connection:

Scripture teaches that all people are equal before God, emphasizing fairness and justice as divine principles. This teaches us to treat everyone with respect and kindness, regardless of their background.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God treats everyone equally?
2. How can we show fairness to others at school or with friends?

256: Purpose of the Law

Bible Story:

Romans 3:20 - The Law Shows Our Sin

Salvation Connection:

God gave the Law to help us understand our sinful nature and our need for a Savior. This points us to Jesus, who fulfills the Law and offers us grace through His sacrifice.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the Law teach us about ourselves?
2. How does Jesus help us overcome our sin?

257: The Penalty of Sin*

Bible Story:

What is the penalty of sin?

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Salvation Connection:

This verse highlights the serious consequences of sin—spiritual death—but also the wonderful gift of eternal life available through Jesus Christ. It underscores the hope and redemption found in Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does "the wages of sin is death" mean?
2. How does Jesus' gift of eternal life change our future?

258: Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross

Bible Story:

1 Corinthians 15:3 - Jesus Died for Our Sins

Salvation Connection:

Jesus died on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins, a sacrifice that restores our relationship with God and opens the way to eternal life. This act of love is central to the Christian faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus need to die for us?
2. How can we show gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice?

These devotions aim to deepen third graders' understanding of key Christian beliefs and encourage them to reflect on their faith and actions in light of biblical teachings.

15-B

259: The Full Armor of God

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:11 - Why Wear the Full Armor of God

Salvation Connection:

The Armor of God is a metaphor Paul uses to help us understand how we can protect ourselves against spiritual threats and temptations. Wearing the full armor allows us to stand strong against the devil's schemes.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways the devil tries to trick us?
2. How can each piece of the armor help us resist?

260: The Belt of Truth

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:14 - The Belt of Truth

Salvation Connection:

The belt of truth symbolizes the importance of truth in our lives. It holds everything together and helps us stand firm in our faith, keeping us secure in what we believe and practice.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is truth compared to a belt in the Armor of God?
2. How can you practice being truthful in your daily life?

261: Breastplate of Righteousness

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:14 - The Breastplate of Righteousness

Salvation Connection:

The body armor, or breastplate, of righteousness protects our heart and vital organs—spiritually speaking. It represents living a life that is right with God, which protects us from spiritual harm.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is righteousness?
2. How does living righteously protect us?

262: Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:15 - Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Salvation Connection:

The shoes represent our readiness to go and share the peaceful message of the Gospel. They remind us to be prepared at all times to walk in peace and bring the good news to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. How can the Gospel of peace be like shoes?
2. What does it mean to be ready to share the Gospel?

263: The Shield of Faith

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:16 - The Shield of Faith

Salvation Connection:

The shield of faith helps us to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. It symbolizes our trust in God and His promises, protecting us from doubts and spiritual attacks.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does faith act like a shield?
2. Can you think of a time when your faith helped you overcome a challenge?

264: The Helmet of Salvation

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:17 - The Helmet of Salvation

Salvation Connection:

The helmet of salvation protects our minds and thoughts. It reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice, securing our salvation and eternal life, which helps us to keep a clear and focused mind in spiritual battles.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the helmet associated with salvation?
2. How does knowing you are saved influence your thoughts and actions?

These devotions help third graders understand how to apply the Armor of God metaphorically in their lives, fostering spiritual growth and resilience against challenges.

15-C

265: The Shield of Faith

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:16 - Using the Shield of Faith

Salvation Connection:

The shield of faith is crucial for Christians to defend against the devil's attacks. Faith in God's promises allows us to block the fiery arrows of doubt, fear, and temptation that Satan directs our way.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some "fiery arrows" that faith can help protect us from?
2. How can you strengthen your faith every day?

266: The Sword of the Spirit

Bible Story:

Ephesians 6:17 - The Sword of the Spirit

Salvation Connection:

The Word of God is described as a sword, showing its power to cut through deception and attack spiritual obstacles. It is an offensive weapon in our spiritual arsenal, helping us to take action against evil.

Discussion Questions:

1. How is the Bible like a sword?
2. Can you think of a Bible verse that has helped you in a tough time?

267: Rejoice Always

Bible Story:

Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice Always

Salvation Connection:

Paul instructs Christians to rejoice always, no matter the circumstances. This command highlights the joy that comes from knowing Christ, which transcends all of life's challenges.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why should we rejoice always?
2. What are some ways you can show joy at home or school?

268: Letters to Timothy

Bible Story:

Paul's Letters to Timothy

Salvation Connection:

Timothy was a young pastor who received guidance and encouragement from Paul through two letters, now part of the Bible. These letters help Christians understand how to lead and live faithfully in a community.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul wrote letters to Timothy?
2. What qualities do you think are important for someone who helps lead others?

269: Onesimus, the Changed Slave

Bible Story:

Philemon 10-13 - Paul and Onesimus

Salvation Connection:

Onesimus, a runaway slave, met Paul in prison and converted to Christianity. Paul's letter to Philemon appeals for Onesimus' welcome as a brother in Christ, showcasing the transformative power of the Gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did meeting Paul change Onesimus' life?
2. How does God change us when we follow Him?

270: Why We Love God

Bible Story:

1 John 4:19 - Our Love for God

Salvation Connection:

We love God because He first loved us, offering us salvation and unconditional love. This foundational love invites us to respond by loving Him back and extending love to others around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways God shows His love for us?
2. How can you show love to God and others?

These devotions aim to help third graders grasp foundational Christian concepts and apply them in practical, faith-building ways throughout their daily lives.

16-A

271: John's Vision on Patmos

Bible Story:

Revelation 4:1 - John's Revelation

Salvation Connection:

While exiled on the island of Patmos, John received visions from God about the end times, which he recorded in the Book of Revelation. This story teaches us that God reveals His plans to His people and reassures us of His ultimate control over history.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God showed John visions of the future?
2. How can knowing about God's plans give us hope?

272: What is an Apostle?

Bible Story:

Acts 1:8

Concept - The Role of an Apostle

Salvation Connection:

An apostle is someone specially chosen and sent by God to spread the gospel and establish the church. This role demonstrates the importance of being chosen by God for specific tasks in His grand plan.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you name some of the apostles from the Bible?
2. What special tasks does God have for each of us today?

273: What is Faith?

Bible Story:

Hebrews 11:1

Concept - Understanding Faith

Salvation Connection:

Faith is more than just belief; it's complete trust and confidence in God and His promises. This total reliance allows us to live according to God's will and experience His full blessings.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things you trust God with in your life?
2. How can having faith change the way we live?

274: What is Doctrine?

Bible Story:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Concept - The Importance of Biblical Doctrine

Salvation Connection:

Doctrine is the teaching based on the Bible. It forms the foundation of our beliefs and guides how we live as Christians. Knowing sound doctrine helps us to understand more about God and how to follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to learn about biblical teachings?
2. What is one biblical teaching you remember, and why is it important?

275: What is Sin?

Bible Story:

1 John 3:4; James 4:17 - The Definition of Sin

Salvation Connection:

Sin is disobedience to God's commands as revealed in the Bible and by the Holy Spirit. Understanding sin helps us recognize our need for a Savior and the importance of following God's will.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some examples of sin?
2. How can we avoid sin in our daily lives?

276: What is Grace?

Bible Story:

Ephesians 2:8-9

Concept - The Grace of God

Salvation Connection:

Grace is the unearned and undeserved favor of God towards us. It's through grace that we receive forgiveness and eternal life, not because of our actions but because of God's love and mercy.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does it feel to know that God loves us no matter what?
2. What are some ways we can show gratitude for God's grace?

These devotions help third graders understand key concepts in Christianity, encouraging them to explore their faith and apply biblical truths in their lives.

16-B

277: What is Redemption?

Bible Story:

Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:13-14 –

The Concept of Redemption

Salvation Connection:

Redemption is the act of Jesus paying the price for our sins, allowing us to be forgiven and freed from the power of darkness. This concept teaches us about the immense love and sacrifice Jesus made for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus paid the price for our sins?
2. How can we show our appreciation for Jesus' sacrifice?

278: What is Death?

Bible Story:

Matthew 10:28 - The Definition of Death

Salvation Connection:

Death in the Bible refers to the separation of the soul from the body. It reminds us that there is an eternal life beyond our physical existence on Earth, emphasizing the importance of living a life that prepares for eternity.

Discussion Questions:

1. What happens to us when we die?
2. How can we prepare for eternal life?

279: What is a Prophet?

Bible Story:

Deuteronomy 18:18; Judges 4:4; 1 Samuel 19:20; Acts 2:17 -

The Role of Prophets

Salvation Connection:

A prophet is chosen by God to deliver His messages to the people. Prophets play a critical role in guiding, warning, and revealing God's will through the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think God sends prophets to speak to us?
2. Can you name any prophets from the Bible and what they did?

280: Who are the Angels?

Bible Story:

Hebrews 1:14 - Angels, Servants of God

Salvation Connection:

Angels are spiritual beings created by God to serve Him and help carry out His purposes. They protect, guide, and deliver messages to God's people, showing us the divine support we have in our spiritual lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things angels do according to the Bible?
2. How do you think angels help us today?

281: God is Immutable

Bible Story:

James 1:17 - God's Unchanging Nature

Salvation Connection:

The immutability of God means that He does not change. This attribute assures us of His constant love, justice, mercy, and truth, providing a stable foundation for our faith.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to you that God never changes?
2. How does knowing God is always the same help you trust Him more?

282: What is a Disciple?

Bible Story:

Matthew 28:18-20

Concept - Being a Disciple of Jesus

Salvation Connection:

A disciple is someone who learns from and follows Jesus. Being a disciple involves not only learning about Jesus but also living according to His teachings and spreading His message to others.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does being a disciple of Jesus involve?
2. How can you be a good disciple at home or school?

These devotions help third graders understand important Christian concepts, fostering a deeper relationship with God and encouraging them to live out their faith actively.

16-C

283: What is Prayer?

Bible Story:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Concept - Understanding Prayer

Salvation Connection:

Prayer is our way of communicating with God, sharing our thoughts, feelings, and needs with Him, and listening for His guidance. It is an essential part of a Christian's life, strengthening our relationship with God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things you can talk to God about in prayer?
2. How does it feel when you pray?

284: What is Praise?

Bible Story:

Psalms 150

Concept - The Meaning of Praise

Salvation Connection:

Praise involves expressing our admiration and gratitude to God for His greatness and the good things He does. It's a joyful acknowledgment of God's attributes and acts.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things about God that you can praise Him for?
2. Can you think of a song or a psalm that is full of praise?

285: What is Worship?

Bible Story:

John 4:23-24

Concept - Exploring Worship

Salvation Connection:

Worship is a deep and reverent honor towards God. It involves more than singing; it's a full-hearted expression of love and awe towards God for who He is.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways we can worship God?
2. How do you feel when you worship?

286: "Repentance" Means?

Bible Story:

Acts 17:30; 20:21 - The Call to Repentance

Salvation Connection:

Repentance means turning away from sin and turning toward God. It's a vital step in the Christian life, showing our desire to live according to God's ways.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is repentance important in our relationship with God?
2. What does it mean to change your mind, heart, and direction?

287: What is Justification?

Bible Story:

Romans 5:1 - Being Made Right with God

Salvation Connection:

Justification is God's act of removing the guilt and penalty of sin while declaring a sinner righteous through Christ's atoning sacrifice. This legal declaration means God sees us as if we had never sinned.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Jesus help us to be justified before God?
2. What does being justified mean for how we live our lives?

288: What is Sanctification?

Bible Story:

1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:3 - The Process of Sanctification

Salvation Connection:

Sanctification is the ongoing process of being made holy, set apart from sin, and dedicated to God. It involves growing in character to become more like Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be set apart for God?
2. How can we grow to be more like Jesus?

These devotions aim to help third graders grasp fundamental spiritual concepts, fostering a deeper understanding of their relationship with God and how to live a life that reflects His love and truth.