



PRESCHOOL

This month we are teaching preschoolers that they can trust God and learn how to do things His way ... God's way is *perfect*! In week 1, we share with the children that God created the world and put Adam and Eve in a special Garden. The kids learn that Adam and Eve didn't follow God's way.

Say: Adam and Eve learned that God's way is the best. When we make wrong choices, God shows us that He loves us and that His way is the best way. Adam and Eve finally decided God's way was the perfect way, but it was too late.

Extra Activity: When you go into your child's room, say, "Good morning! Who's ready to wake up and go God's way?"

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIV)

Remind Preschoolers: Whose way is perfect? *God's way is perfect.*

KINDER-GRADE 3

For the month of May, we are talking about commitment. We'll help kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus. Commitment means "following God's plan by putting it into practice." We kick off the month with something Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:24-25.

Say: Paul used running in a race as a way to talk about our relationship with God. A growing relationship with God isn't something that happens overnight; we need to practice it. How can we "train" for this race?

Extra Activity: Make a Commitment Chart for the family. Family members who read their Bible, pray, or spend quiet time with the Lord receive a star. Set a number of stars as a goal for the family and pick a family prize. For example, if the family reaches a goal of 25 stars for the month, they can go out for ice cream at the end of the month!

Remember: ... *my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Kids: Keep practicing what matters most.

GRADES 4-6

Why is practice so important, and how is it helpful? Does your preteen know that his/her faith in Jesus takes practice? Our physical muscles grow when we work out, and our spiritual muscles grow when we commit our whole life to Jesus by studying the Word, praying, sharing our faith, and living for Christ daily.

Say: Remind your preteen that *commitment* is what he or she will be learning about all month long. It is when we follow God's plan by putting it into practice.

Extra Activity: With the Summer Olympics coming up in July, create some intentional family time and plan to watch the Olympics together. And for now, learn about how disciplined the Olympians are. Look at the intensity of their training and how they will do whatever it takes to win. Ask your preteen how he or she will train this week to live for Jesus and take his/her faith seriously.

Remember: ... *my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Preteens: Your preteens are running the race of faith. If they want to finish strong, then they need to commit to practice and train hard to grow in Jesus.

SPECIAL FRIENDS

This month we will learn that we can trust God! His way is perfect. God can see where we cannot. God has the power to make a way where there is no way. God loves us, and we can trust Him, no matter what!

Say: In Genesis 1-3, Adam and Eve had a choice – to obey God or not. Adam and Eve did not go God's way, even though God's way is perfect. The result was very sad for them. Every day we can make a choice to obey God. We can choose to go God's way!

Extra Activity: Play a game of Simon Says with your Special Friends. Then let them know what an awesome job they did of listening! Remind your Special Friends that we should listen to God and go God's way, because His way is perfect!

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIV)

Remind Special Friends: God's way is perfect.

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PRESTONWOODKIDZ



JUNE 21-24



Preschool-Grade 6

— 9:00 AM – NOON —

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PARENT TAKE-HOME HANDOUT

MAY – WEEK 2

PRESCHOOL

We learn about Jonah, who learns the hard way that he should go God's way when he is swallowed by a *huge* fish! The kids will learn this week that God's way is the best way to go. His way is perfect!

Say: Jonah was an amazing man, but did He go his way or God's way? Yes, you are right ... Jonah decided to go his way instead of God's way. Was that the best choice? NO WAY! Jonah learned that he could trust God and that God's way is the best way!

Extra Activity: As you drive or take a walk, tell your child which way you need to go in order to get where you're going. Ask your child what would happen if you went the wrong way. (*You would not get where you need to go.*) Talk about how God's way is perfect. That means God's way is never ever wrong. God's way will always be the best way and will get us where He wants us to go.

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)

Remind Preschoolers: Whose way is perfect? *God's way is perfect.*

KINDER–GRADE 3

Have you ever built a treehouse? Or maybe a birdhouse? How about a house of cards? In week 2, we look at building houses ... well, sort of. In Matthew 7:24-29, we read a parable Jesus told at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

Say: Two builders took different approaches to build their homes. One house was built on a solid foundation, the other on shifting sand. The message is clear: A solid foundation in life starts with hearing and doing what Jesus says.

Extra Activity: Family competition time! Form two building teams. One team builds a building with a deck of cards, and the other gets to use Legos® or building blocks. Then switch materials. Which was easier to build; which stood stronger? How can we build our faith to be stronger?

Remember: ... *my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Kids: Practice hearing from God.

GRADES 4–6

How can you hear from God? How cool would it be if God would speak aloud to us? Although that doesn't normally happen, every time we open up the Bible, God shares His Word with us.

Say: This week, your preteen looks at the parable of the wise and the foolish builders and how we need to build our lives on the solid rock of God's Word. The best way we can do this is to practice hearing Scripture and doing what it says.

Extra Activity: As a family, build a house out of Legos® and set it on different foundations: stone, sand, concrete, marshmallows, etc. Explain that when we base our lives on anything other than the Bible, our lives are unstable. For this reason, we need to ground ourselves in God's unshakable truths.

Remember: ... *my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Preteens: Practice hearing God by committing to read and do His Word.

SPECIAL FRIENDS

This month we will learn that we can trust God! His way is perfect. God can see where we cannot. God has the power to make a way where there is no way. God loves us, and we can trust Him no matter what!

Say: In Jonah 1–3, when God first asked Jonah to go to Nineveh, did he go God's way? No! Jonah didn't go God's way. But after a trip in the opposite direction, and some time inside the belly of a fish, Jonah decided to go to Nineveh. Jonah learned that he should go God's way!

Extra Activity: God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and tell the people, "Go God's way." Assist your Special Friend in making a list of places you can go and tell people, "Go God's way!" Some examples are school, a store, and even a park!

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)

Remind Special Friends: God's way is perfect.

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PRESCHOOL

In week 3, we continue to look at God's Word for how we should do things. We should do things God's way! In 2 Kings 5:1-14, we see that Naaman chooses to go God's way and dip in the river, even though it is hard to do.

Say: Naaman learned that God's way might be different, but it is always best! He decided to do things God's way even if it were difficult to do. We can trust God. He will help us do things His way!

Extra Activity: Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, Your way is always perfect. That means Your way will always be the right way. Help us to know what Your way is and then choose to go Your way. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)

Remind Preschoolers: Whose way is perfect? *God's way is perfect.*

KINDER-GRADE 3

Jesus was a great example of how we should act, and how to love others. But Jesus also gives a great example of how to pray. In Luke 11:1-4, we find Jesus' disciples asking Him how to pray. Jesus responds with a prayer that serves as the perfect model for how we can talk to God.

Say: Jesus' example of prayer shows us that we can pray with gratitude and honesty for our needs and forgiveness. It's comforting to know that we can pray, knowing that God knows us and wants to hear from us.

Extra Activity: In a family circle, have each person think of one thing he or she is grateful to God for and one prayer request; maybe it's for a friend, or not to be anxious about a test, or any other prayer request. Write all the requests on a piece of paper and put them on the fridge, and every night at dinner or in the carpool line or at other times during the week, pray, thanking God for His blessings, and asking Him to minister to the requests.

Remember: *... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Kids: Practice praying to God.

GRADES 4-6

How do you pray to God? In Luke 11:1-4, Jesus teaches us *how* to pray. More than how we talk to God, Jesus is focused on *what* we pray from the heart.

Say: Remind your preteen that prayer is how we talk to God, and it is definitely a discipline that we must commit to practice. *Commitment* is the key word that your student is learning this month and it means: "following God's plan by putting it into practice."

Extra Activity: Break up the Lord's Prayer in the following four sections and spell out the **P.R.A.Y.** acronym: **P**raise ("hallowed be your name"), **R**epent ("forgive us of our sins"), **A**sk ("give us today our daily bread") and **Y**ield ("lead us not into temptation").

Remember: *... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Preteens: Be committed in your relationship with Jesus by praying to God.

SPECIAL FRIENDS

This month we learn that we can trust God! His way is perfect. God can see where we cannot. God has the power to make a way where there is no way. God loves us, and we can trust Him no matter what!

Say: In 2 Kings 5, Naaman was sick. He had spots all over his skin. Naaman chose to follow God's way and dipped in the water seven times! Naaman went God's way, and God made his spots all better! Yay! It may be hard sometimes, but God's way is perfect, all of the time!

Extra Activity: Assist your Special Friend in making a list of things that may be difficult to do, but when we do them, we know we go God's way. Maybe it's difficult to share with others. Maybe it's difficult to tell the truth sometimes. Maybe it's difficult to make good choices. Lead your Special Friend in a prayer, asking God to help us go His way, even when it's difficult.

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)

Remind Special Friends: God's way is perfect.

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PRESCHOOL

This week we look at King Josiah. He is a great example of what to do. He tells others to go God's way, even though he is young.

Say: King Josiah was young, but he believed in doing things God's way! He did things as God wanted, and He told others about God. I want you to know that even though you are young, you can do things the right way – God's way!

Extra Activity: Add a toy to bath time. Use a bath crayon to draw an arrow on the tub showing your child which way the toy can go. Wipe away the arrow and draw another one going the opposite direction. Change up the arrow a few times during bath time while your child plays with the toy, making it follow the arrow. Talk about how God tells us the right way to go, too, but it's up to us to choose to go God's way.

Remember: *God's way is perfect. –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)*

Remind Kids: Whose way is perfect? *God's way is perfect.*

KINDER–GRADE 3

Who is Jesus? How would you explain who Jesus is? For week 4, we head to Matthew 16:13-20. Jesus asked His disciples about who people thought He was. Then Jesus turned the question on the disciples.

Say: After everything the disciples had seen Jesus do and heard Him say, who did they think He was? Reread the passage. Would you respond as Peter did if you were asked "Who is Jesus?"

Extra Activity: As a family, practice sharing the Good News of Jesus with each other. A great tool to share the Gospel is the 3 Circles method. Check out lifeonmissionbook.com/conversation-guide. Then go find a neighbor and share the Good News.

Remember: *... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. –Acts 20:24*

Remind Kids: Practice talking about God, then go talk to someone about Him.

GRADES 4–6

Whom can you talk to about God? In Matthew 16:13-20, Jesus asked Peter, "Whom do you say that I am?" and He is asking your preteen the same question as well.

Say: Before we can talk to others about Jesus and share the Gospel with them, we need to be like Peter, believe that Jesus is the Messiah – the One sent from God to save us from our sins, that He is our Lord and God whom we serve with all that we are.

Extra Activity: As a family, take this time to visit gotquestions.org and research what other religions and cults believe about Jesus. Was He just a good teacher? Did He really rise from the dead? Is He God? Answer these questions together and reinforce your family's beliefs about Jesus and Christianity.

Remember: *... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. –Acts 20:24*

Remind Preteens: Once your preteen knows Jesus and who He is, encourage and challenge him or her to talk to everybody about Him. This shows their commitment to practice their faith.

SPECIAL FRIENDS

This month we learn that we can trust God! His way is perfect. God can see where we cannot. God has the power to make a way where there is no way. God loves us, and we can trust Him no matter what!

Say: In 2 Chronicles 34, King Josiah's workers were digging through some old things and they found some papers with God's Word. As soon as young King Josiah read what God had said, he told everyone that they should go God's way! King Josiah knew that God's way is perfect. That's why he wanted everyone to know what God's Word says!

Extra Activity: This month, we learn that God's way is perfect. Did you know you can tell others that God's way is perfect?! Assist your Special Friend in naming at least one person to share this news with!

Remember: *God's way is perfect. –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)*

Remind Special Friends: God's way is perfect.

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PRESCHOOL

We end the month reminding our preschoolers that God made us all different and unique. First Samuel 16 shows us that when God looks at us, He looks at our heart.

Say: God's way is perfect, and Gideon found that out! Gideon might not have understood God's plan, but he trusted Him and discovered that God's way is the perfect way!

Extra Activity: Cuddle with your child this month and pray, "Dear God, Thank You for another wonderful day with [name of child]. Help us continue to learn which way is Your way, because Your way is perfect. And when we know which way is Your way, give us the courage to go Your way. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)

Remind Kids: Whose way is perfect? *God's way is perfect.*

KINDER–GRADE 3

We finish the month in Mark 12:41–44. Jesus was with His disciples in the temple, watching as people gave money. They noticed how wealthy people gave lots of money, but then came a poor widow. She gave just two small coins. While this seemed like such a small gift, Jesus says this woman gave more than the rich people because she gave everything she had.

Say: The widow gave only two small coins, but this was a mighty act of worship. Worship is how we honor God with our whole lives – how we love and serve others, how we give of our time and talents, how we obey and praise God, even how we rest. How can your family worship God today?

Extra Activity: We want kids to practice the faith skill, LIVE, and discover that worship isn't just singing loud. It's *living* loud, living for Jesus all the time. How can we live loud this week?

Remember: *... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Kids: Practice living for God.

GRADES 4–6

How can you live for God? This month we have talked about how your preteen can show commitment by practicing hearing from God's Word, praying to God, and talking about God with others.

Say: In Mark 12:41–44, we learn about the widow who lived out her faith by giving all that she had. How can your preteens walk in faith this week and give all that they have to serve God and His Church?

Extra Activity: As a family, talk with your preteens about your commitment to tithe and give offerings to Prestonwood and other like-minded ministries. Share your testimony about how God provided for you and met all your needs when you gave in faith by trusting in Him with your finances.

Remember: *... my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.* –Acts 20:24

Remind Preteens: God gave your preteens Jesus, so that they would live for Him by practicing generosity.

SPECIAL FRIENDS

This month we learn that we can trust God! His way is perfect. God can see where we cannot. God has the power to make a way where there is no way. God loves us, and we can trust Him no matter what!

Say: In Judges 7, we learn about a man named Gideon. He was the leader of God's army, leading them into battle. At first, Gideon had a large army, but God kept making his army smaller and smaller. Gideon had to trust that God's way is always perfect, even when he didn't understand how it would work.

Extra Activity: Memorizing Scripture is a great way to remind ourselves that we can trust God! Let's say our memory verse with the motions we've learned! "God's way" (point up) "is perfect," (two thumbs up) "2 Samuel 22:31" (open hands as if holding a book).

Remember: *God's way is perfect.* –2 Samuel 22:31 (NIRV)

Remind Special Friends: God's way is perfect.

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