

WESLEY
STORIES
SEPT · OCT · NOV 2010



**Loving your
child as Jesus
loves you**

**Celebrating
God's
power**

**Learn from
creation**

P A R E N T S ' S E C T I O N

Family Ideas for the Fall



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EPTEMBER 5–30 • We Are Important to Jesus

Unit Memory Verse

This is how
we know
what love is:
Jesus Christ
laid down
his life for
us.
1 John 3:16

Unit Action Rhyme

This is how we know what love is:

(Cross arms over chest.)

Jesus Christ

(Point up.)

Laid down his life for us.

(Point to self and others.)

I'll show what love is

(Point to self.)

Because Jesus Christ first loved us.



Learning to Love Because We Are Loved

Happy children come from happy families. When children are surrounded by love, they are able to give love to others.

As parents, we pass on to our children our own sense of worth. If we feel good about ourselves, we will also value our children. If we have a realistic picture of our strengths and weaknesses, we can accept our children for who they are—not perfect, but beautiful and worthy of our love.

Even when negative things affect our lives, we can still discover a well of acceptance in our relationship with Jesus—“We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19).

What a beautiful gift God gives us. Drink from the well of God’s love; bathe in His forgiveness; celebrate being the son or daughter of the King of kings. Your child will reap the benefits of God’s love for you and her.

Family Activities

Cultivate adult friends and activities that build you up as a person. Even if it’s hard to arrange, parents need occasional time away from their children that’s not job related. Go on that church retreat; take up swimming or biking; sign up for a night course. Maybe you and another family from the church can take turns baby-sitting for each other. Children feel loved and secure when their parents are happy.

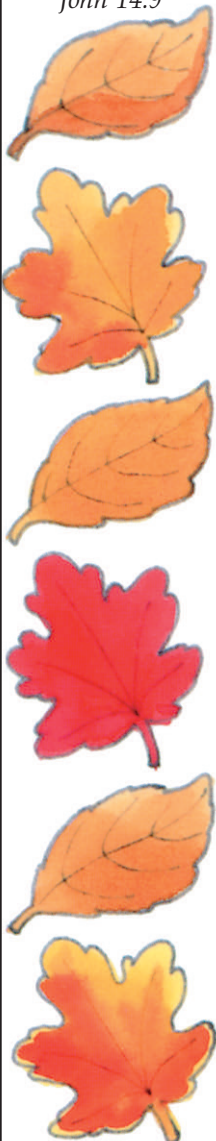
As parents, we sometimes struggle with feelings of failure. When this happens to you, sit down with a sheet of paper and list all your weaknesses. Right next to them list your strengths as a person and as a parent. Now look up Romans 8:38-39 and write across the top of the paper “Nothing can separate me from the love of God!”

Apologize to your family if you lose your temper or make a mistake. Include a hug and an “I love you” with the apology. When your child disobeys or makes a mistake, ask for an apology and accept it with love.

OCTOBER 3—31 • Jesus Shows Us What God Is Like

Unit Memory Verse

[Jesus said,]
“Anyone
who has
seen me has
seen the
Father.”
John 14:9



Unit Action Rhyme

Jesus has shown us what God is like.

(Point to eyes then point upward.)

Whatever God the Father can do,

(Point upward.)

His Son can do too.

(Extend arms wide.)

I praise them for the help they give;

(Raise hands in praise.)

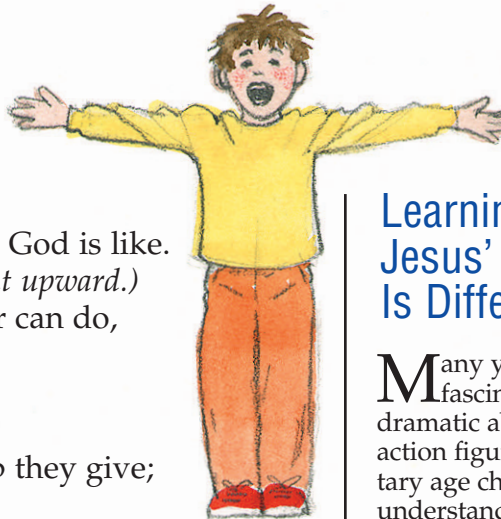
Jesus loves me each day I live.

(Hug self.)

[Jesus said,] “Anyone who has seen me

(Hold arms out.)

Has seen the Father.”



Learning How Jesus’ Power Is Different

Many young children are fascinated by the dramatic abilities of superhero action figures. Early elementary age children generally understand the difference between the fantasy of superheroes and what is real. However, the power shown by superheroes may influence children’s concept of what power is and how it works.

The power Jesus shows is not like contemporary superheroes. Jesus’ power teaches us about the character of God. We see His love for us in His mighty acts. Jesus’ power is peaceful and calm—it doesn’t blow things up! God’s power to forgive us when we do wrong brings us back into relationship with God. God doesn’t use His power to annihilate us, instead He heals, restores, and rebuilds what sin has damaged.

Your conversations with your child can help him understand the difference between the gentle, loving power of God and other forms of power they see displayed around them each day.

Family Activities

As you and your child look at this month’s Bible stories about Jesus’ miracles, talk about power. Where did Jesus get the power to do those wonderful miracles? (From God, because God sent Him.) Why did Jesus do those things? (To help people; to show them God’s love.) You might watch a few cartoon shows on television with your child. Gently point out that sometimes power—even the pretend power of cartoon heroes—is used to hurt people. That kind of power is not from God and does not please God.

Make cookies with your child. As you work, explain that God gives us the opportunity to help lonely or sad people feel better. Ask what you could do with these cookies to help someone you know feel better. You might wrap the cookies on a pretty paper plate and deliver them together. Talk about how doing something kind makes *us* feel happy too!

Help your child understand that God’s love and forgiveness are powerful. You can illustrate this fact the next time your child does something wrong. Pray with your child as he asks for God’s forgiveness. Then talk together about how God wants him to do the best he can to correct the situation. Let your child know that the happy feeling he has after talking to God is the result of God’s power to forgive us.





NOVEMBER 7–30 • God Made the World

Unit Memory Verse

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.
Genesis 1:31



Unit Action Rhyme

God looked and looked
(Hold hand at eyebrow as if looking.)
And what did He see?
(Shrug shoulders.)
God saw all that he had made,
(Extend arms.)
And it was very good.
(Clap hands on "good.")

Family Activities

Your family can enjoy the goodness of everything God made! All of creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed and explored.

Look out a window or sit outside with your child for a game of "I Spy." One tells a clue about something God created. The others guess what the clue is about. Clues can be for created things we see, the benefits we receive from creation, the sequence of God's creative work, etc.

Go on a creation detective search. Look for evidence of what God has created. Everyone searches for and shares the evidence they find. For example, a leaf is evidence of trees, the breeze is evidence of air, a shadow is evidence of the sun, seeds are evidence of plants, an animal footprint on the ground is evidence of animals, a rock is evidence of land, a bird singing is evidence of animals, the sound of a river is evidence of water, etc.

Learning from the Order of Creation

God created the heavens and earth to maintain a certain order of time and seasons. God's creation follows a routine.

People generally appreciate familiar routines. Predictable schedules give a sense of order and security. Children especially need this stability in daily life.

Rules and limits set for children may be resisted, but consistent boundaries are still comforting. A child who knows that we wear a coat out in cold weather is more accepting of the rule when it is enforced the same way every day.

Maintaining a regular bedtime for children can be difficult at times. An established routine can help: a bedtime snack, a story or song, prayer . . . then quiet. God made a routine of activity and rest in His creation. Many plants, trees, and animals rest in the fall; even God rested from His work on the seventh day.