



Faith Together at Home

God Finds Us

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around a candle in the coziest spot in your home to read the Parable of the Lost Sheep from Matthew 18:12-14 or from your favorite children's Bible. Share highs and lows from the day, then tell stories about times you have been lost—in a store, on a trip to an unfamiliar place, in the woods, etc. You may also have stories of feeling lost because you don't know what to do—taking a test, being hurt by a friend, losing a job, etc. Talk about what it felt like to be lost, and what it felt like when you were finally found. Remember that even when we are lost, God finds us.

Discover Together

Reading the Bible helps us know more about God and God's love. Ask everyone to search the house to find all the Bibles you have. Gather them together and compare them. Grown-ups, do you like a Bible with extra features for study and journaling? Kids, which one do you like best—pictures or no pictures? Find the Old and New Testaments and count all the books in each (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament books). Are there any books of the Bible you haven't heard of? What book of the Bible are you most familiar with?

If you have a family Bible, explore what is inside—family tree, birth dates, baptism dates, marriage dates, death dates? Where does your family keep this kind of information? If you do not have a family Bible with these dates, consider starting one.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- When did you receive your first Bible? Who gave it to you? Do you still have it?
- When is your favorite time to read the Bible: morning, middle of the day, or evening?
- Share a story about a time when a Bible story or verse helped when you felt lost.

Play Together

Play a game of Hide and Seek. For extra fun, play it in the dark. When you are done, celebrate that everyone was found and enjoy a snack of popcorn and your favorite drink.

Serve Together

We learn more about God's love by reading the Bible. As a family, plan to donate a Bible to your church's library or a Sunday school class or buy a children's Bible and gift it to a new baby.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Thank you, God, for finding us when we are lost. Thank you for our Bibles. Thank you for our family. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

Jesus the I AM

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible and share highs and lows from the day. Talk about things that make you feel good and things that make you feel sad or down. Read Jesus' words from John 14:6: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Have each person share a descriptive statement that tells something about who they are ("I am . . . good at basketball; artistic; kind.").

Discover Together

Grab a Bible and ask someone to read aloud Exodus 3:14. In the New Testament, Jesus expands on God's name, adding descriptions that help us better understand what God is like. Turn to the Gospel of John. Take turns finding and reading the seven "I AM" statements Jesus makes in John 6:35, 8:12, 10:7, 10:11, 11:25, 14:6, and 15:1.

Now go on a scavenger hunt around your home, looking for objects that symbolize these statements. For example, a slice of bread could go with John 6:35 ("I am the bread of life") and a flashlight could go with John 8:12 ("I am the light of the world"). Be creative and have fun with the search! Gather together again and share what you found.

Jesus guides us and nourishes us. Jesus loves us and wants us to be in relationship with him. He even died for us, so that we can live in his love forever!

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other.

- How do the "I AM" statements help you know more about God?
- Which "I AM" statement do you think would be most helpful if: someone was feeling lost? Wanted to know more about God? Was feeling nervous about an upcoming event in their life?

Play Together

Celebrate Jesus, the light of the world! Gather outside at night, or in a darkened room, for a game of Flashlight Tag. Afterward, light a candle (or a lamp) and enjoy a snack together. Talk about favorite movies or books that have themes of light and darkness. Sing a song about light, such as "This Little Light of Mine."

Serve Together

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life . . . I am the light of the world." Consider ways your family can share life and light with others in your neighborhood. Bake or buy a loaf of bread and deliver it to a neighbor or someone in need. Add a note that reads: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life . . . I am the light of the world" (John 6:35, 8:12).

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **God of Life, thank you for your love. Thank you for the gift of Jesus who lights the way to you. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

God Calls Us by Name

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible. Share highs and lows from the day. When someone shares a high, give them a high five. When someone shares a low, comfort them with a gentle hug. Read aloud Isaiah 43:2, explaining that God makes and keeps promises. God loves us very much and is with us in good times and hard times.

Discover Together

Gather in a circle and invite the youngest family member to begin by thinking of a Bible person whose name begins with the letter A. The next oldest family member names a Bible person whose name begins with a B, and so on until everyone has had at least one turn. Have a Bible and story Bible nearby for reference.

Each of the Bible people named played a role in God's story and was loved by God. Each of us is also loved by God and part of God's story. Ask someone to read aloud Isaiah 43:1b. Repeat together, "I have called you by name, you are mine." Invite everyone to close their eyes and imagine God gently and lovingly saying these words to them.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- Who chose your name for you? If you know what your name means, share it.
- As followers of Jesus, we all share a common name: Christian. Do you know what this name means? (Follower of Christ)
- As Christians, what promises and blessings are ours?
- What responsibilities come with being a Christian?
- When is it easy to be a Christian? When is it more challenging?

Eat Together

Buy refrigerated breadstick dough and give some to each person. Have them form their initials with the dough. Follow package directions for baking the breadsticks. Say a quick prayer and then eat them as a reminder that God calls us by name.

Serve Together

In baptism, God welcomes us into God's family, calling us by name. Who has been baptized in your church lately? Ask your church office for this information. Then make and mail a "Welcome to the Family" card that includes these words from Isaiah 43:1b: "I have called you by name, you are mine."

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Loving God, we are so thankful that you have welcomed us into your family. We are grateful that you know each of us by name. Help us share your love in all we say and do. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

Many Books, One Bible

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible. Share highs and lows from the day. Take turns reading aloud from Hebrews 4:14-16. Jesus also experienced highs and lows—he understands what we’re going through and he’s there to help us in every situation. Give praise and thanks to Jesus for the highs and pray for wisdom, direction, comfort, and strength for the lows.

Discover Together

Gather several different kinds of books from around your home (poetry, picture books, novels, songbooks, schoolbooks, etc.). Ask each person to choose a book, browse through it, and say what kind of book it is.

Pass around one or more Bibles. Explain that the word Bible comes from the Greek word *biblia*, which means “books.” The Bible is not one book, but a collection of many different books. Look at the table of contents and study notes in each Bible to learn a little bit about the different kinds of books and sections, such as historical books, poetry, and letters. Together, answer the following questions about the Bible:

- What are the first and last books of the Bible? (Genesis and Revelation)
- How many Psalms are in the Book of Psalms? (150)
- Which book has the shortest name? (Job)
- Which books are named for women? (Ruth and Esther)

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- Name your favorite novel or storybook. What do you like about it?
- Name your favorite Bible story. What do you like about it?
- How does the Bible help us have a closer relationship with Jesus?

Eat Together

Put together a snack of Bible time foods, such as pita bread, honey, cheese, grapes, and milk. While you eat, look up what foods are mentioned in these passages: Genesis 18:6-8; 1 Samuel 17:17-18, Isaiah 5:1-2, Isaiah 55:1, Matthew 3:4, Matthew 26:26, and John 6:8. Thank God for the food you share and for the spiritual food God provides in the Bible.

Serve Together

Books are a wonderful treasure. Consider ways your family can support a library in your church, school, or community. Donate books, or set up a Little Free Library in your front yard. To uplift the importance of books in a virtual way, record your family reading a favorite children’s book together and share the video with family and friends.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **God, thank you for the Bible—the best book of all. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

God's Word Is Our Treasure

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Place a lighted flashlight and an open Bible in a cozy gathering place in your home. Invite everyone to search for the light. When it is found, turn off the flashlight and light a candle. Gather around it and share highs and lows from the day. Remind your family that the Bible helps us see the path God is leading us on each day.

Discover Together

Work together to solve this riddle.

*My first is in book, but not in cook
My second is in singular, but not in plural
To find out my third, at my first take a look
My fourth is found at the end of mural
My fifth is in seen and tasted and heard
There's treasure untold to be found in this word!
(Answer: BIBLE)*

Read Psalm 119:105. Together, create hand/body actions to go with each of the following words from the verse: *word, lamp, feet, light, and path*. Repeat the verse and actions until everyone can say it by heart. Psalm 119:105 compares God's word to light. Psalm 119:162 compares it to treasure. What other images describe what the Bible is like?

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- What is your greatest treasure, and why is it precious to you?
- Have your treasures changed over the years? In what ways?
- In what ways is the Bible a precious and valuable treasure?

Play Together

Wrap some favorite bite-size treats in aluminum foil. Write Bible verses on slips of paper and attach one to each "treasure." Make at least one for each family member. Hide the treasure around your home and then invite everyone to search for their share. When all the treasure is found, gather together to enjoy the treats and the Bible verses. (Suggested verses: Exodus 19:5; Matthew 6:21; Matthew 13:44; Mark 10:21; 2 Corinthians 4:7)

Serve Together

Organize a Treasure Hunt for your friends and neighbors. Create clues that lead to the treasure—a Bible! Share with each other why the Bible is important to you and your families. If you need to social distance, make bookmarks with family members' favorite Bible verses and mail them to friends and family.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Jesus, you are the light that shows us the way. You are the treasure we search for each day. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible and share highs and lows from the day. Bring out a large sheet of paper, colored pencils, crayons, and markers. Sit together around the paper and read aloud Psalm 23 slowly and with expression. As you read, invite everyone to draw pictures and symbols that express the psalm (shepherd, green grass, stream, table laden with food, etc.). Display your Psalm 23 poster in a prominent place. Encourage everyone to say a brief prayer of thanks to Jesus, our Good Shepherd, each time they see the poster today.

Discover Together

In John 10:11-15, Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life in order to protect and save his sheep. Read the passage together and then assign parts and act it out. Next, turn to Luke 15:3-6 and read aloud Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep. Invite family members to act out the story.

Jesus often told stories called parables to help people understand how much God loves them. Like the shepherd in these stories, Jesus never stops caring for us or looking for us when we are lost.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- What is your favorite story about Jesus? Why do you like it best?
- Tell about a time you felt lost. How can faith in Jesus help us through such times?
- How can we help other people when they are feeling lost?

Play Together

Gather your family together for a game. Select one person to be the shepherd. Have this person cover their eyes. Everyone else will be the sheep. Secretly choose one of the sheep to "baa" for the shepherd. Encourage this person to disguise their voice. Let the shepherd guess who the sheep is. If correct, the sheep becomes the shepherd for the next round. If not, the shepherd tries again with a new sheep. Play until everyone has an opportunity to be the shepherd.

Serve Together

Good shepherds lead their sheep to green pastures, making sure they receive adequate nourishment. As a family, help nourish others at a soup kitchen, food shelf, or other organization. Ask your church for a list of organizations it supports through monetary gifts or providing volunteers. Continue to remember the people served by this organization in your prayers throughout the week.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Jesus, our Good Shepherd, thank you for leading us each day. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

Jammin' with the Psalms

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible and share highs and lows from the day. Rejoice with family members as they share their joys and accomplishments; sympathize with them in their difficulties or sadness. Talk about how songs often express emotions like happiness or sadness. Ask each person to talk about one of their favorite songs. Play a portion of each song on a streaming service or recording. How does the song make you feel? What message do you hear in the words and music?

Discover Together

The Bible contains many books, including a songbook! Ask someone to locate the book of Psalms in a Bible. Point out that some of the psalms include notes or directions to the worship or music leader (See Psalms 4, 5, 84, and 102). The book of Psalms contains a variety of songs to express different emotions, feelings, or requests. Take turns opening to a random psalm. Read a few lines aloud and talk about what the psalm is trying to express (praise, thanksgiving, complaint, confession, anger, sorrow, etc.). Then create your own psalm! Have each person add a line that expresses how they are feeling about God today. Make up a tune and sing your psalm together.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- People have been expressing their feelings through music for thousands of years. Why do you think that is?
- If you could write a song for God right now, what would the main message be?

Play Together

Psalm 100:1-2 tells us to “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.” Make musical instruments to accompany a family sing-along! Round up kitchen utensils (saucepans, lids, whisks and spoons), containers of beads or pebbles, buckets, and sticks. Challenge older kids to fill glasses with various levels of water so that a familiar tune can be played when the glasses are tapped with a spoon. Sing some of your family’s favorite songs as you play along!

Serve Together

Record a musical greeting to encourage, celebrate, or comfort a friend or family member. Sing or play a song and record it using a mobile device. Send the recording to someone who would enjoy the musical message.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing from Psalm 92 at the close of your time: **It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night, to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre. For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy. Amen.**



Faith Together at Home

God's People Pray

Explore
the Bible

Gather Together

Gather around an open Bible and share highs and lows from the day. Remind everyone that not only can we share our highs and lows with one another, we can also share them with God. We can talk to God about anything, from our greatest joys to our deepest fears to our saddest tears. Talking to God is what we call prayer. God is always present, listening to everything we have to say. The Bible teaches us about the importance and power of prayer. Join hands and pray or sing together the Lord's Prayer.

Discover Together

Ask everyone to search the house for books that provide useful information or directions (dictionary, atlas, map, how-to manual, address book, cookbook, and so forth). Talk about the different ways each book is helpful to your family. Then locate a Bible and ask someone to read aloud 2 Timothy 3:14-17. The apostle Paul wrote these words to a young Christian leader named Timothy. According to Paul, what does the Bible do for us? (Instructs us for salvation through faith in Jesus.) Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The Bible instructs and teaches us how we can come to God through Jesus.

Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other.

- What does the Bible teach us about prayer? (See Matthew 6:5-15; 7:7-11, Luke 18:1-8)
- Do you know a prayer by heart? Share it with your family.
- When does your family pray together?

Pray Together

Practice praying for each other this week. Write each family member's name on a slip of paper and place them in a hat. Take turns drawing out a name. Keep the name a secret. Throughout the week, pray for your "prayer pal." Leave them written prayers or pictures to find in a lunchbox, briefcase, or shoe! At the end of the week, reveal the names of your prayer pals. Join hands and say a prayer of thanks for each person in your family.

Serve Together

One way to show care and concern for the wider family of God is to pray for people everywhere. Consider starting a prayer chain with other families in your community or congregation. Encourage each family member to recruit one person to join the prayer chain. Plan how to activate the prayer chain, and make sure you let people know about keeping confidentiality.

Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **God, thank you for the gift of your Holy Word. Thank you for the gift of Jesus who teaches us how to praise and worship you. Help us share your love in all we say and do. Amen.**