

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD IS FAITHFUL

Return to Jerusalem and Rebuilding of the Temple

Ezra 1—8

The Jewish people returned to Jerusalem and the temple was rebuilt.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD IS WITH US

Baptism and Wilderness Temptation

Matthew 3:13–17; 4:1–17; Mark 1:9–15; Luke 3:21–23; 4:1–14;

John 1:29–36

After John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days. God the Father was with Jesus the entire time.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Throughout Scripture, God often used periods of 40 days as a time of trial that led to renewal and change.
- Immediately following His baptism, Satan tempted Jesus for 40 days.
- Despite the temptation, God the Father was always with Jesus—just as He is with us through periods of trial and temptation in our lives.

Count to 40 around the dinner table. Explain to your children God used the number 40 in significant ways throughout The Big God Story. Tell them you're going to read about when God used the number 40 to mark a new season in Jesus' life. Read **Mark 1:9–15**. Remind your children God's Spirit sent His Son, Jesus, into the wilderness for 40 days. Ask, "Who took care of Jesus while He was there?" God did. God the Father was with Jesus, and He is always with us.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- How do we know God was with His Son, Jesus, when John the Baptist baptized Him?
- Do you think Jesus was scared when He was in the wilderness?
- How can we know God is with us, even though we can't see Him?

Extend these questions into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Is with Us into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go."

Isaiah 48:17

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may God go ahead of you, stay behind you, and walk beside you this week.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to truministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY