



The "Jesus Journey" Week 1: Learner

A Weekly Parent And Family Guide
To Help Understand And Apply
Traits Of A Disciple

During the next 7 weeks, the Bel Air UMC family is on a Journey: "The Jesus Journey." As we journey together during this time, families are encouraged to use this special devotional and activity guide to help all members of your family grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word and what it means to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. There are five specifically created activities and devotionals to use at your convenience during the week.

There are 7 traits, each week you will be introduced to a new one in worship and we ask that as you go throughout your week, you make time as a family to explore what it means to be a Disciple and how you can grow in your walk with the Lord. You've been invited on this special journey, take your first step on the path to an exciting adventure along with your family!

Created For Families By
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DISCIPLESHIP TRAIT: LEARNER

"A learner grows intentionally in knowledge and wisdom of the Lord, Jesus Christ."

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 1

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:18 "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Thought For The Day: We are learning new things every day! A new word, a new way to do something, a new road to walk or drive, the name of the new neighbor...the list goes on and on.

Discussion: As a family, review your day and talk about one new thing each person learned today. Talk about the Scripture, what does it mean? How can each person, no matter their age, grow in their "knowledge" (understanding) of Jesus? What are you doing as a family to "grow in grace and knowledge"?

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all that I am learning, in school, at work and at home. Thank you for the teachers in my life, those at school, at work at church and especially at home. Help me to be a faithful learner of your Word. Amen.

Activity: Plant some beans! Find a pot, soil and beans and plant them together as a family. Take care of them by providing sun and water. Watch them grow!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 2

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:15 "You have known the Holy Scriptures since you were a child. The Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Thought For The Day: Our faith (belief in God) comes through reading God's Word.

Discussion: Find a Bible in your home. Have a child that is able to read, read today's Scripture, 2 Timothy 3:15, from that Bible. God uses His Word to teach us about our way to find Him. The meanings are not hidden, they are right there in front of us when we take time to look for them! Talk about why God's Word is important to **you**.

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you for your Word that teaches me about You! Help me to be faithful in reading it so that I can grow closer to you. Amen.

Activity: Collect all the Bibles in your home. Talk about their differences (color, hard or soft cover, translation, etc.) and then read today's Scripture in each one. Although the words may be different they all mean the same thing!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 3

Scripture: Psalm 119:1 “*You are blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God.*” (The Message)

Thought For The Day: God’s Word is like a road map for our lives. We can choose to open and unfold it, thereby finding our way through life, or allow it to remain closed on the shelf in our homes.

Discussion: There is something about us that doesn’t like to ask for directions. It makes us look like we don’t know where we are going, when in fact, we actually don’t! When we read God’s Word as if it is a road map, we will be on the right way to finding our way to God. Talk about a trip you took when you got lost. Talk about a trip when you were successful in following the directions. What was the difference in those two trips?

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Your Word that provides direction to You! Help me to read it faithfully and walk closer with you through life. Amen.

Activity: Find a local map! Chart out the course you take to and from work, school and church. Talk about a time when you were lost and didn’t have a map. How did you feel? What did you do to help the situation? Open God’s Word today to find direction for your life!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 4

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:6-9 “*Always remember these commands I give you today...teach them...talk about them...write them...*”

Thought For The Day: There have always been and always will be rules to live by. God’s Word provides us with rules that help us live lives that are pleasing to Him.

Discussion: We don’t always like to live by the rules. They seem to get in our way sometimes! But, like it or not, rules are a part of life. Talk about rules that your family has and why those rules are important. Talk about rules at school and why those are important. Talk about why you think God gave us rules in the Bible.

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Your Word that gives me rules by which to live my life. Help me to follow them faithfully and know that you give them out of your love for me. Amen.

Activity: Take a board game out of the closet. Look over the rules and talk about why the rules are important to follow in that game. What would it be like if we didn’t follow the rules! Have fun playing the game together as a family!

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 5

Scripture: Psalm 145: “*Generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts.*” (The Message)

Thought For The Day: There are many people in our lives that teach us about everyday life. There are special people in our lives that teach us about God and God’s Word. Think about and remember those special people today.

Discussion: Today, take time to talk with your children about school. Talk about the role of the teacher. Talk about the role of the student. Talk about the role of the parents. Now talk about the people that teach you and your children about God. What is different in the way they teach? As a parent, share with your child who it was that in your life first told you and taught you about God. Help children understand that it is and will be their responsibility to pass on the faith to those that come after them.

Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to be a faithful learner of you’re your Word. Help me, too, to be a faithful teacher to those that come after me, so they too can know about and love you! Amen.

Activity: Get out the paper and crayons! Have each person in your family design, create and write a “thank you” note to someone who has taught them about God and God’s Word. Make sure to put it in the mail or better yet, hand deliver it to that person with a verbal word of “thanks!”

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

What is my family doing to continue learning and growing in our faith? Make plans now to take a step up and find new ways to study and learn God’s Word!