



The "Jesus Journey"

Week 6: Proclaimer

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

We're coming down to the end of this series. As we continue to 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
Bel Air United Methodist
Church
21 Linwood Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-5181
www.baumc.com

DISCIPLESHIP TRAIT: PROCLAIMER
"A proclaimer conveys the transforming power of God."

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3: "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*"

Thought For The Day: Our relationship with God is a gift.

Discussion: Talk about your excitement on your birthday or on Christmas morning awaiting those gifts. How do you feel inside? Why do you think you "deserve" those gifts? What was the greatest gift ever given to anyone? (See John 3:16). What do we each need to do to receive that gift?

Family Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Help me to be a faithful follower. Amen.

Activity: As a family, pick a neighbor or family friend and decide on a special gift you could give them. Plan a time to visit that person, bring your gift and perhaps a special "party treat." Tell them that they are special to you and you give them this gift as an expression of your love for them. Then, tell them about the greatest gift, Jesus, God's Son. If they do not know about Jesus, share with them what you believe and why.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 2

Scripture: Luke 5:11 "*So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*"

Thought For The Day: Following Jesus means we must leave some things behind

Discussion: Talk about your most prized possessions. Why does this "thing" mean so much to you? How would you feel if you were asked to give it or throw it away? How would you feel if you were told to leave all you own and go to a new place? Talk about what the disciples did in order to follow Jesus. How might they have felt leaving everything behind?

Family Prayer: Dear God, you call us to be disciples. Help us to put you first in all that we do. Amen.

Activity: Take a "trust walk." Blindfold one person and have another family member walk them through the house. Take turns until all have participated. Talk about how you felt having to trust the person leading you. How do you think this relates to the way the first disciples had to trust Jesus?

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 3

Scripture: Philippians 4:3 *"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."*

Thought For The Day: With God all things are possible!

Discussion: Discuss what things you have had to do in your life that seemed impossible. What gave you the courage to do it? Why do you think you were able to do it? What was the result? In the Christian faith we know Paul's statement to the Philippians is true, but yet we need to remember that as a Christian, we are under the control of God's will, not our own. When we are walking in God's will, we can be sure that we *"can do everything through Him who gives me strength."*

Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to walk in your will even when it seems impossible. Amen.

Activity: Telling others about Jesus can be one of those "things" that seems impossible. Take out a piece of paper and as a family, make a list of the reasons you believe in Jesus. Think about why you go to church. Use that list as a family to write the story of your family's faith. Now comes the hard part! Take your story and tell it to a neighbor who does not know Jesus. Pray before you share it, in confidence knowing that you *"can do everything through Him who gives you strength."*

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 4

Scripture: Acts 8:4 *"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."*

Thought For The Day: It is up to me to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

Discussion: Talk about the last "good news" you heard that you couldn't wait to share. What made it so exciting? Why did you want to tell others about it? What about the story of Jesus makes you want to share it with others? Who have you shared it with lately?

Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to share the Good News of Jesus with others. Amen.

Activity: Look at the newspaper together as a family. What in there can you find that is "good news?" What would you call "bad news?" What makes the "bad news" stand out so much more so than the "good news?" As a family, write a newspaper article as if you were meeting Jesus for the first time. Be sure to record what you saw and felt. What did He do that made you recognize Him? Make it in the form of a "EXTRA EXTRA!" newspaper edition. If you have a computer, use it to create your story and print off copies to share with your friends.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL 5

Scripture: Acts 1:8b *"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Thought For The Day: Being a witness for Jesus means stepping out of my comfort zone.

Discussion: What does it mean to be a witness? As a believer in Jesus, how are you a "witness?" When Jesus speaks the words in Acts 1:8 he is telling the people to start being a witness in Jerusalem (their own neighborhood), Judea and Samaria (their towns) and to the ends of the earth (the world). Where is Jesus telling YOU to be a witness? At school? At work? In your neighborhood? On the playground?

Family Prayer: Dear God, help me to be a witness everywhere I go. Amen.

Activity: Take out a map of Harford County. Find your neighborhood. Circle a 5 mile radius around your location. Now, find your town (ie Bel Air, Abingdon etc.) and draw a 15 mile radius around your town. Now, find a state map. How far does being a witness count in the state of Maryland? How about the United States? What about the world? As a family, discuss how you can be a witness in the world. Perhaps supporting a missionary in a foreign country is one way you can be a witness *"to the ends of the earth."* Perhaps, even praying for missionaries would be one way to be a witness!

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Who was the last person I shared the "Good News" with about Jesus?