

## Wayfinding Bible Curriculum

During 8th grade small groups, our heart is that each student learns more about the overarching story of the Bible, how each story points to Jesus, and help them learn how to study Scripture on their own!

Each week we will flyover different stories of the Bible and learning about the journey God's people have been on since the dawn of time. In each story, we will encourage the students to journey through four basic questions that they can apply to any passage!

**1. List - What does God's Word say?**

a. **List the Facts** – *Find the who, what, when, and where.*

**2. Learn - What does God's Word mean?**

a. **Learn the Lessons** – *Is there a warning, promise, command, or example to be noted?*

**3. Listen - What does God's Word mean to me?**

a. **Listen to His Voice** – *Ask God how the lesson applies to your life.*

**4. Live - What will I do to live it out?**

a. **Live it Out** – *Journal your thoughts on what God seems to be saying to you and your response.*

These four questions are on the sticker in the front of their Bibles and can help spur on conversation each week!

**Each week we have provided additional supplemental questions to help spur on conversation, but we encourage you to challenge your student(s) to dig into the text and discover what God is saying!**

## **DAVID** - Anointed & Becoming King - 1 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 5:1-25

1. Who is David? What do you know about David? Can anyone come up with the story of his life?
2. Who is Saul? Why did God need to replace him as king?
3. What does it say about David that he was able to serve Saul while knowing that God wanted him to be king? Do you think you could have remained faithful to God's plan in the waiting?
4. David was described as a "man after God's own heart". What about David's life shows you that? What would it look like for you to be described as someone after God's own heart?
5. David wrote many of the Psalms. Psalms can range from sorrowful and full of despair all the way to someone who is joyful and excited about what the Lord is doing. David shows us that it is important to practice the presence of God in every situation. Do you find yourself turning to God during your low and high moments? If so, in what ways? If not, why?
6. David was a man destined for great things, but he was only able to accomplish God's will when he remained faithful to God and loving him deeply. Why does God care more about our character than what we do for him? How are you allowing God to shape who you are?

## **REBUILDER** - Joash Repairs the Temple - 2 Chronicles 24:1-27

1. Joash became king at seven years old! What were you doing when you were seven? Describe what you were like as a child. How would you have fared as a king as age seven?
2. Joash from the age of seven had a mentor in his life (Jehoiada) who helped guide him in the ways of the Lord. Do you have a mentor or mentors in your life? Who is pouring into you? If not, who are some people in your life that you can ask to pour into you? (small group leader, parent, coach, teacher, etc).
3. Now that you have identified those people, what are some ways you can spend time with them or ways they can guide you?
4. When Joash's mentor died, he began to fall away from God, allowed bad things to happen and was influenced by people who were not following God. What does this show you about the importance of a mentor? What happens when we do not have people in our lives pouring into us?
5. Not only is it biblical for us to be poured into, but we should be looking to mentor and pour into others. Who are people in your life that you can be influencing for Christ? (Friends, younger siblings, small group members, teammates, etc.).
6. Early in his life, Joash saw the importance of the temple to their community. Although God is not bound by a place and lives within us as Christ followers, we still believe in the importance of gathering at a physical location like a church. Do you believe church is important? If so, do you make strides to make church a priority to you? How can we continue to make our faith the most important thing in our life?

## MESSIAH - A Branch from David's Line - Isaiah 11:1-16

1. Isaiah 11 is considered a prophecy text (the Book of Isaiah is full of prophecy). What do you know about prophecy? What is prophecy? (Discuss before giving this definition). While often times we think prophecy is prediction of future events, that is not always what prophecy is (although sometimes it is!). Biblical prophecy is defined as a ***message that God speaks to his people through a human prophet***. Sometimes this is about the future, and sometimes God uses human prophets to speak a message from him that they need to hear.
2. This passage in Isaiah is one of the most famous prophecies about Jesus in Scripture. Look at the verses and identify anything you think is related to Jesus' life or mission. (Examples – v.1 (Stump of David's family will grow a shoot), v. 2 (the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him), v.3-5 (Jesus' character), v.10 (heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world)).
3. There are around 300 prophecies about Jesus in Scripture. Scripture tells us that Jesus has fulfilled all of these about his time on earth and he will fulfill the ones about the future. It is estimated that if Jesus fulfilled only 8 of the 300 prophecies, the odds of that would be **1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000**. That means the odds of this happening are the same as covering the entire state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars, marking just one, and dropping someone blindfolded and asking them to find that one silver dollar on their first try! How crazy is that? Does that give you confidence in believing in Jesus?
4. Even more important than knowing this fact is knowing why you believe in Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus? If so, why? Take some time to think about why you believe in Jesus and give reasoning for it.
5. If you found yourself thinking about how your parents or friends believe, or because you go to church, or you signed up for small groups, I challenge you to own your faith as your own. Your faith hinges upon what you believe, not what other people around you do. How can you own your own faith?
6. Jesus is pursuing you and wants to be in deep relationship with you. Let's take some time to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal himself to us and to deepen our faith in Jesus!

## **DESTRUCTION** - The Fall of Jerusalem - Jeremiah 52:1-30

1. Has there ever been a time where you tested your parents' patience? Or you waited till the last second to see if they would actually punish you? If so, what happened?
2. The nation of Israel for hundreds of years had disobeyed God. It God so bad that they would completely forget God, worship other gods, and live lives that were completely against God's plan for them. God would time and time again give them second chances and rescue them from their sin, but they would always fall away again. Just like a child whose parents need to give them a punishment so they can learn a lesson, God knew it was time to allow his people to experience the consequences of their actions. What happened to God's people in this passage? Do you think it was fair for them to be punished or not be rescued from their mistakes? Why or why not?
3. What do you think it would have felt like to be taken into exile away from your homeland? How would this have changed your behavior? Would this make your faith in God greater or lesser?
4. In the midst of this exile, God showed that he still cared for his people. He set in motion plans for them to be restored and brought back to their homeland one day. Has there been a time in your life when you have gone through something hard or made a mistake and God still cared for you through it?
5. The amazing truth is that even though we sometimes must face consequences in life to learn from our mistakes, God has shown his love and grace for us in that we do not have to experience the ultimate consequences of our sin. Even though we deserve eternal separation from God, Jesus has provided a way for us to be forgiven and live with God eternally. How does reading a story like this change the way you think about God's grace for you? How can we respond to God's grace today?
6. Take some time to pray and thank God for his grace that he has show onto you. Ask God to convict you of your sin and help lead you into following his ways instead of our own.

## **RESTORATION** - Rebuilding the Temple - Ezra 3:1-13

1. After about 70 years in exile, the Israelites were allowed to return home. What do you think this would have felt like for them? Has there ever been a time in your life where you were brought back to something? (Move back home, see family again after a long time, etc.)
2. One of the very first things the people of God did when they returned home was rebuild the temple. What does this say about the Israelites?
3. Just like the temple was important to the Israelites, the New Testament talks about a new temple where God resides? What/who is this temple? What is the significance of this dwelling place of God? (1 Corinthians 19).
4. How does knowing the Holy Spirit dwells in you change the way you think about the Holy Spirit? How does this shift how you live?
5. How can we rely on the Holy Spirit when we are guided by those four questions in our Bibles?
6. God cares about our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health. How can we work to maintain our bodies as temples of the Lord in all of these areas?
7. Let us spend time boldly asking the Holy Spirit to do a work in us. Ask God to make his presence known in this place and to have his way in you. Then spend some time listening to God and what he has to say.

## **THE WAY** - Jesus, The Way to the Father - John 14:1-31

1. This is our first week in the New Testament! This year we have been doing a flyover of Scripture, so we have jumped from place to place in the story really fast! Can anyone recap for us some of the places we have been this semester? What do you think is the main themes you have seen from the greater story of Scripture?
2. We start off the New Testament with the Last Supper. Jesus has gathered his disciples together for one final meeting, and he takes John 13-17 to share final instructions and truths with his disciples. What do you think the mood was like in this room? If you knew this was the last time you would be spending with Jesus before he died, what would you do? Remember, the disciples still did not understand what was about to happen!
3. Read verse 6 together. What does Jesus say about himself here? What does this mean? Do you believe that Jesus is the only way to relationship with God? Why or why not?
4. We live in a world that constantly tells us to find our own path, to believe what we want to believe, and to encourage one another to define truth for themselves. What are some things in this world that people place their hope or joy in? Why do these things fall short to the only true way, Jesus?
5. How are you remaining close to Jesus and following his ways above all others?
6. Even though Jesus was about to die, he promised his disciples that his presence would not leave them. What does he mean by this? Who is coming to be with them? Why was it so important for the Holy Spirit to come?
7. In John 16:7, Jesus says it is better for him to leave so that the Spirit will dwell with us. What is so powerful about having the Spirit dwell in us? Have you ever considered this idea that Jesus himself said it was even better to have his Spirit with you than his flesh?
8. How are you choosing to live by the Spirit each day? How are you connecting with God daily and looking to love others by the Spirit's leading?
9. Take some time to pray expectantly upon what the Holy Spirit wants to do in your life and the lives of those in your small group.

## **THE ASCENSION** - The Ascension of Jesus - Acts 1:1-26

1. We have been talking a lot about the Holy Spirit these last few weeks. Do you feel like you know who he is? What confuses you about the Holy Spirit? Is there anything you learned or were reminded of these past few weeks that stands out to you?
2. During the forty days Jesus was resurrected on earth, what kind of questions would you have asked him? What would that have been like to spend time with the risen Jesus?
3. Just before Jesus ascends to heaven, he promises his disciples once again that the Holy Spirit will come upon them and guide them as they be his witnesses in the world. Why does Jesus keep talking about the Holy Spirit? What is so important about him?
4. The book of Acts is often referred to as "The Acts of the Apostles" for all of the things the Apostles do in the early days of the Church. Some scholars have suggested a more appropriate name would be "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" because the Holy Spirit is at the center of everything God is doing. What is the Holy Spirit doing right now? What is he doing in this group? In your life?
5. Becoming people who depend on the Holy Spirit means we need to become more aware of Him. How can we be more aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives? How can that make us more dependent on him?
6. How would your life look different if you depended on the Holy Spirit? How different would your small group, family, school, church, community, and this world look?
7. Take time to pray as a group that we would become more aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Pray that this awareness drives us to deeper dependence on him, and that we would allow him to lead us in our journeys to become more like Jesus.



## **THE CHURCH** - The Holy Spirit Comes - Acts 2:1-47

1. In this chapter we see the birth of the Church. What do you think the Church is? Who or what is the Church? What defines the Church?
2. Imagine the scene in verses 1-13. How crazy was that? What does that show you about the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. The Holy Spirit spoke through Peter that day and he preached an incredible sermon that led about 3000 people to Christ. What was the point of this message? What did God want to say to his people?
4. Acts 2:42-47 is often looked at for the way the early church functioned. What were some of the things the early church did together? (Devoted to the apostles teaching, fellowship, sharing meals, communion, prayer, signs and wonders, sold their possessions and shared with those in need, worshiped at the Temple, met in homes, praised God, etc.)
5. What daily disciplines are you doing to engage with God each day and allow the Holy Spirit to work in you?
6. What are some disciplines that are easy for you to do? What are some that are harder? Challenge each other to engage in an easier and harder one every day this week!
7. If we want to know God and be in relationship with him, it is so important to be in God's word every single day. Spend some time discussing your bible reading habits and commit to a schedule where you will be in the word each day!
8. Authenticity among believers is so important for spiritual growth. How can we work together as a group to be more vulnerable and real with each other? How will this help us grow closer to each other and allow God to work in us?
9. The early Christians spent so much time praying together, and they saw God do miraculous things! What are some different ways you can pray? How can you incorporate prayer into your day-to-day life?
10. Spend time praying as a small group over these commitments to spending time with God. Pray that God uses these moments we set aside for him to shape us into the image of his Son and to lead us by the power of his Spirit!

## **HEALER - Peter Heals a Lame Beggar - Acts 3:1-11**

1. Have you ever seen or experience a miracle before? Tell us about it!
2. Peter was going about his normal day when he encountered this opportunity for healing. Do you allow God to interrupt your day for his glory? Do you keep your eyes open for the ways the Holy Spirit may want to use you?
3. How is your dependance on the Holy Spirit affecting those around you? Do you seek to bring healing, or do you find yourself causing division? Do you seek to help those around you or are you more concerned with yourself? Be honest with yourself here. If you are struggling to be someone that allows the Holy Spirit to help or heal others through you, ask your group to pray for you and help encourage and challenge you in this!
4. The Holy Spirit wants to work through each of us every day to further the Kingdom. Can you think of any opportunities in your life (at school, home, church, small group, sports, in the community, etc.) where God may want to use you? How can we be more aware of the Spirit's leading in these moments?
5. We have talked about having mentors and people to pour into you in the past. Who are some people in your life that can help spur you on this journey to live each day by the Holy Spirit?
6. Everyone commit to at least one area of your life where you are going to focus on being more aware of the Holy Spirit's promptings this week. Have your leader write these down and remind each other throughout the week to commit to this. Next time you meet, spend time discussing what came of this!
7. Spend time praying for each person and the area of their life they want to depend on the Holy Spirit's prompting. Each person in the group will pray for another person! Then at the end spend time individually asking God to lead you this week and to help you be aware and in tune with the work of his Spirit.