

# Next Steps



## DEAR FAMILY,

We are committed to helping families grow together! Our Kids Staff and volunteers want to do everything we can to help your child as they learn what it means to LOVE Jesus, SERVE others, and TELL the world about Christ. We hope this workbook is a great “next step” for them!

**If your child** has asked **Jesus** to be their **Forever Friend**, we are cheering with you! This is so exciting because it’s the most important decision they will ever make. This workbook is designed to help your child understand the decision they have made, as well as give an overview of what it means to follow Jesus for the rest of their life.

God’s Word, the Bible, is the guide for this study. Referenced Bible verses are printed in this packet, but we encourage you to follow along with your Bible too. There is no rush to finish this! Take your time to be sure your child truly grasps these foundational truths. After your child has completed this workbook, they can bring it back to CedarVille **for a prize!**

After each section we have provided discussion questions. We hope these will create some neat conversations in your home. You will find some sample answers in the back of the workbook, in addition to some helpful family resources.

Please connect with a Kids Staff Member at your campus if you have any questions or concerns while going through this study.

**We are so thankful to partner with you!**

**The CedarCreek Kids Staff**

In CedarVille, we simply use "A.B.C." to explain God's plan for us to have a relationship with him. What exactly is the "A.B.C." prayer?

**A. ADMIT**

... you have made bad choices.



Draw a picture of someone in your life who is perfect.

Now read:

**For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.** Romans 3:23

According to that Bible verse, we have all sinned.

**WHAT IS SIN?** Sin is when we think we know better than God. We can see our sin in many different ways: When we DO something (an action, attitude, word or thought) that does not please God. Examples of this include: lying, not listening to our parents and being selfish. When we DO NOT DO something (an action, attitude, word or thought) that would please God. Examples of this include: not loving other people, not being thankful and not serving others.

No matter how hard we try, no one is perfect. It's impossible to think of a single person who is perfect, who has never sinned ... except Jesus. If you drew his picture in the box above, way to go! Jesus is God's son, and in fact, he is God. **He is the only perfect person who has ever lived and who will ever live.**



In these circles, write or draw something that is a sin.

**BAD CHOICES** deserve a punishment. It's important to learn what we deserve from God because of our sin.

In Romans 6:23a it says:

**“For the wages of sin is death...”**

**WHAT IS A WAGE?** A wage is like a paycheck, something you have earned or deserve for your efforts. According to the verse, what is the punishment for our sin?



Because of our sin, the punishment we deserve is death, or spiritual death to be more specific. What is spiritual death? It is to be **separated from God** even after we die and there is nothing we can do to reach God on our own.

**How does this truth about your sin and the punishment you deserve from God make you feel?**

### **FAMILY CONNECTION**

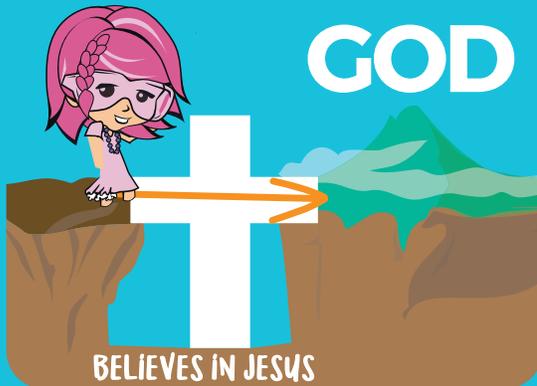
1. Why does sin separate us from God?
2. What do we deserve because of our sins?
3. What are some sins you struggle with?

## B. BELIEVE ...

Jesus died to take the punishment for your sin.

Read Romans 5:8

**But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.**



Our bad choices bring consequences. Those consequences should have resulted in our separation from God forever. But because God loves us, he sent his only son Jesus into the world to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin so we did not have to. Jesus never did anything wrong. He was sinless and perfect but laid down his life for us because he loves us!

The best part is that Jesus didn't stay dead; God raised him back to life again!

**“He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.”** Luke 24:6-7

Jesus proved he had ultimate power over sin and death. Jesus' death on the cross, followed by his resurrection (being raised) from the dead, does more than just allow us to escape the punishment for our sin. It allows us the opportunity to gain eternal life, the ability to live with Jesus forever in heaven someday. This is the “free gift” we read about in the second part of Romans 6:23.

**...but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Bible goes on to say: **But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.** Ephesians 2:4-5, 8

**This reminds us that (fill in the blank):**

**Salvation is a free  from God.**

**We cannot earn it.**

### FAMILY CONNECTION

1. What did Jesus do to save us from our sin?
2. Why is Jesus the only person who could save us?
3. What can we do to earn salvation?



## C. COMMIT ...

to Jesus being your best friend and leader of your life.

**But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.** John 1:12

According to the above verse, what two things are necessary to become one of God's children?

- 1.
- 2.

**Do you want to ask Jesus to be your Forever Friend?** This is not a promise that you will be perfect and never make a bad choice again. It is a decision to allow Jesus to be your leader as you follow him for the rest of your life!

If **yes**, this is the exciting part! It's as easy as A, B, C! Below is a prayer you can use as a guide. There is nothing special about the words you say. God just wants to see your sincere heart.

## PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I admit that I am a sinner. I believe you took the punishment for all my sin when you died on the cross and that afterward you were raised to life. Thank you for loving me and forgiving me. I want to follow you for the rest of my life. Please be my Forever Friend! Amen

## CONGRATULATIONS!

NAME

prayed the ABC prayer on DATE asking Jesus to be their Forever Friend!

PARENT SIGNATURE

So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. Romans 5:11

## FAMILY CONNECTION

1. How does Jesus become your Forever Friend?
2. What does it mean to commit your life to Jesus?
3. Is there anything in your life you already know you need to change now that you've asked Jesus to be your Forever Friend?

# JESUS IS MY FOREVER FRIEND!

The Bible gives us instructions on how to live a life that is committed to Jesus. Below are some important “Next Steps.”

## BAPTISM

In the Bible we learn that after a person makes Jesus their Forever Friend they are baptized right away. Baptism happens when a person goes underwater and then comes back out. Coming out of the water symbolizes that our old way of living, following our own ways, is gone. We have a fresh start following Jesus! Jesus himself was baptized and we should always follow his example. Baptism doesn't save us or make us forgiven; only asking Jesus to be our Forever Friend can do that! **Baptism is a way to tell the whole world you love Jesus!**

The Bible says:

**“Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.” Acts 2:38**

Before you are baptized you should be able to answer these three questions.

1. When did you ask Jesus to be your Forever Friend? Tell us about that.

2. Why do people get baptized?

3. Why do you want to be baptized?

If you think you are **ready to be baptized**, share this decision with your parents, your group leader at church, or another trusted adult. A Kids Staff Member would love to help! We can't wait to celebrate with you!

## FAMILY CONNECTION

1. When should we be baptized?
2. Why is baptism something to be celebrated?
3. Are you ready to be baptized? If so, why?

Getting to know God is a life-long journey! Just like a friendship, the more time you spend with God the more you are going to know him. How can we get to know God? A couple of the best ways are reading the Bible and talking to him through prayer.

## THE BIBLE

When you made Jesus your Forever Friend you committed to letting him lead your life. **The instructions we need for living a life committed to Jesus can be found in God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is 100% true!**

Reading the Bible on a regular basis is very important so we can make good decisions and live the life God wants us to live. The Bible also shows us the things he does not want us to do and it shows us when we need to ask God for forgiveness. Reading God's Word is one of the best ways to know him more!

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:**

**All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.**

**Using the verse above,  
what are three important things the Bible does for us?**

The Bible teaches us what is

The Bible corrects us when we are

The Bible equips, or helps, us to do

The Bible is made up of 66 different books divided up between the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament tells us what life was like before Jesus. The New Testament starts with Jesus' birth and tells us what life was like while Jesus lived on earth and what happened after he died on the cross.

We recommend you find a children's Bible and start reading! Find a quiet place in your home to read or read the Bible with a family member or friend. You don't have to start from the beginning! Pick a book or chapter and start wherever you like! It is a good idea to say a prayer before you start reading and ask God to teach you something important as you read.



The Bible has multiple translations, some of which are easier for young people to understand. In CedarVille, we use **The Hands-On Bible**, which is the New Living Translation (NLT).

Below are some favorite Bible stories you may remember learning about in CedarVille. You could **start your Bible reading** with one of these!

**The Beginning**

Genesis 1:1-2:31

**Adam and Eve**

Genesis 2:4-3:24

**Noah and the Flood**

Genesis 6:9-9:17

**Moses and the Red Sea**

Exodus 13:17-14:31

**The 10 Commandments**

Exodus 20

**David and Goliath**

1 Samuel 17

**Jonah**

Jonah 1-4

**Daniel and the Lions Den**

Daniel 6

**The Birth of Jesus**

Luke 1:26-2:21

**Jesus Calms the Storm**

Mark 4:35-41

**Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

John 6:1-15

**Jesus Walks on Water**

Matthew 14:22-33

**FAMILY CONNECTION**

1. How would you describe the Bible?
2. Why should the Bible be a part of our daily life?
3. Why do you think God gave us the Bible?

# PRAYER

One of the most important parts of our friendship with Jesus is having conversations with him by talking and listening. We call that prayer! God loves to hear from his precious children! We can **pray anytime, anywhere, about anything!** God is always **with us and is always listening.**



Read Colossians 4:2

**Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.**

What do you think it means to “devote” yourself to something?

Being devoted to prayer means you are committed to having conversations with God. It means you are excited about the opportunity to talk to God, and to take time to be quiet and learn to listen when he speaks to your heart. The more you talk with God the more you will know him!

Do you have things you are scared about? Are you excited about something? Is someone you love sick or hurting? We can talk to God about these things and more! He always hears us. Even though God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want, we can trust that he is listening, he never leaves us, and he will work everything out for good.

Romans 8:28

**And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.**

## FAMILY CONNECTION

1. Why is prayer an important part of our relationship with God?
2. How often should we pray? Where can we pray?
3. What are some things you would like to pray about?

Our prayer for you can be summed up in our mission statement: that you will continue to **LOVE Jesus** with all of your heart, **SERVE others** passionately, and boldly **TELL the world about Christ**.

## LOVE JESUS

There are many things we love. We love our family, our friends and our favorite toys. But God wants us to love him more than anything else.

The greatest commandment that God gave us is found in Mark 12:30

**And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and all your strength.**

What are we to love God with?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

In CedarVille, some of the ways we show God we love him is by **GIVING AND SINGING!**

2 Corinthians 9:7

**For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.**

God has blessed us with so much! We need to remember that every good thing we have comes from him. The Bible teaches us to give 10%, or a tithe, of what we earn back to God as an offering to the church. The remaining 90% we keep to spend or save!

For example, if your grandma paid you \$10 for helping in the yard, how much would you give back to God? \$1! That's right! You would give \$1 to God and keep the other \$9.

What would 10% or \$20 be?

What would 10% or \$30 be?

Every week in CedarVille we give you an opportunity to give back to God. We use the money to help people at CedarCreek Church and all around the world learn about Jesus. Giving is a great way to show God how much you love him!

**Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.** Psalm 100:2

There are many things that impress us and there are people we look up to. However, God should be the only one that gets our main focus! One way we can give God the praise he deserves is through singing about how wonderful he is. We can worship through music, but worship really is a way of life! We worship God when we do, say, or think anything that gives him glory, honor and praise!

Worship does not just happen at church. You can worship God at home, at school or with your friends. We can worship God anywhere!



### **FAMILY CONNECTION**

1. Why should we love God more than anyone or anything else?
2. Why is giving to the church and being generous with our money important?
3. What are some ways we can worship God?

## **SERVE OTHERS**

In CedarVille, we talk a great deal about how important it is to serve others. We serve because Jesus served others. **We want to be a good example of Jesus and love others through serving.**

**For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others.** Mark 10:45

God has given each of us special talents, things we enjoy and are good at. For example, some people are wonderful singers, others are fantastic artists while others are good at sports. When we use the specific gifts God has given to us, we all play a role in serving others and serving the Church!

### **FAMILY CONNECTION**

1. Why should we serve other people?
2. Can you think of some examples of how Jesus served people?
3. Reflect on your gifts and talents. How can you use those gifts to serve others?

*In these circles, write or draw some ways you can use your talents to serve your church or others.*



# TELL THE WORLD ABOUT CHRIST

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent several weeks teaching and encouraging his followers. Finally he ascended, or rose, into heaven. Before Jesus was lifted back to heaven, he gave his followers this mission:

**And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”** Mark 16:15

The mission Jesus gave his followers is the same mission he gave to you and me! Jesus came to earth so that EVERYONE would have the opportunity to be saved. This is the Good News! Let's tell our family, friends, anyone and everyone we know about Jesus! Together we can tell the world about Christ.

## There are plenty of ways to tell people about Jesus:

 Invite your un-churched friends to come to church with you and we will help you tell them about Christ.

 Tell your friends what you've been learning at church or through reading your Bible.

 Share your story about how you asked Jesus to be your Forever Friend! Use the ABC prayer to help you tell the Good News about Jesus.

**Can you think of three friends or family members who don't already attend church? Who are some people you can invite?**

1.

2.

3.

## FAMILY CONNECTION

1. What mission has Jesus given us?
2. What would happen if every Christian told their family and friends about Jesus?
3. What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus?

# GOD HAS A GOOD PLAN FOR YOU

Ephesians 2:10

**For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

Above all else, remember Jesus loves you! There is nothing you can do that would make God love you more or that would make God love you less. You are his masterpiece.

Jeremiah 29:11

**"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."**

Even though Jesus is our Forever Friend, we are not promised a pain-free life. Thankfully we have a God who will always love us, is always with us, and promises his plans for us are always good.

We can't wait to watch those **good plans God has for your life unfold!**



# FAMILY RESOURCES

Below is a list of some of our favorite resources.  
We hope these are helpful for your family!

There are also some great ways to stay connected to CedarCreek



**Website** CedarCreek.tv/kids

**Facebook** facebook.com/CedarCreekKids

**Instagram** @CedarCreekKids\_PS & @CedarCreekKids\_Elem

**CedarCreek App**

**Right Now Media** A streaming library of thousands of Bible studies and free resources for the whole family! To request a login - [www.cedarcreek.tv/rightnow](http://www.cedarcreek.tv/rightnow)

## Family/Raising Kids:

**Boundaries With Kids**, by Dr. Henry Cloud & Dr. John Townsend

**Bringing Up Boys**, by James Dobson

**Bringing Up Girls**, by James Dobson

**Lead Your Family Like Jesus**, by Ken Blanchard

**Living it Out Devotion**, by CedarCreek

**Love & Respect In The Family**, by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

**Loving the Little Years**, by Rachel Jankovic

**No More Perfect Moms**, by Jill Savage

**Six Ways to Keep the Little In Your Girl**, by Dannah Gresh

**The Love Dare for Parents**, by Alex Kendrick & Stephen Kendrick

**The Power of a Praying Parent**, by Stormie O'martian

**The Whole Brain Child**, by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson

**Wild Things: The Art of Nurturing Boys**, by Stephen James and David Thomas

**5 Love Languages of Children**, by Gary Chapman

## Spiritual Growth Books and Devotionals for Adults:

**Believing God**, by Beth Moore

**Encouragement for Today**, by Proverbs 31 Ministries

**Experience God**, by Henry T. Blackaby and Richard Blackaby

**God is Able**, by Priscilla Shirer

**If:Equip** (ifequip.com)

**Jesus Calling Devotional**, by Sarah Young

**Jesus Today**, by Sarah Young

## FAMILY RESOURCES

**Lost Women of the Bible**, by Carolyn Custis James

**Made to Crave**, by Lysa TerKeurst

**Seven**, by Jen Hatmaker

**Stumbling into Grace**, by Lisa Harper

**Too Busy Not to Pray**, by Bill Hybels

**Unglued**, by Lysa TerKeurst

**When Women Say Yes to God**, by Lysa TerKeurst

### Children:

**Hands On Bible**

**Jesus Calling 365 Day Devotional**, by Sarah Young

A great companion to #1 Selling Adult Devotional Jesus Calling

**Jesus Storybook Bible**, by Sally Lloyd - Jones

**My First Hands On Bible**

**The Beginner's Bible**

### Apps:

**CedarCreek.tv** - Family Ministry Section

**Parent CUE App**

**Prayer Mate**

**The Bible App for Kids**

**YouVersion Bible**

### Blogs:

**A Holy Experience** [www.aholyexperience.com](http://www.aholyexperience.com)

**Barb Roose** [www.barbroose.com/blog/](http://www.barbroose.com/blog/)

**Beth Moore** <http://blog.lproof.org/>

**Getting Down with Jesus** <http://gettingdownwithjesus.com/>

**Good Morning Girls** [www.goodmorninggirls.org](http://www.goodmorninggirls.org)

**Kathy Ptaszek** <http://www.holygroundallaround.com/>

**Lauren Snyder** <http://andshelaughs.com>

**Renee Swope** [www.reneeswope.com](http://www.reneeswope.com)

**To Overflowing** [www.tooverflowing.org](http://www.tooverflowing.org)

## ADMIT

### 1. Why does sin separate us from God?

Our sin, or inclination toward making bad choices, separates us from God because he is perfect. To have a relationship with him we need our sin to be forgiven. This forgiveness is accomplished only through Jesus.

### 2. What do we deserve because of our sin?

We deserve spiritual death. Our sin should result in us being separated from God even after we die.

### 3. What are some sins you struggle with?

Answers may vary: lying, gossiping, hurting others, etc.

## BELIEVE

### 1. What did Jesus do to save us from our sin?

Jesus saved us from our sin by taking the punishment we deserved and dying on the cross.

### 2. Why is Jesus the only person who could save us?

Sin requires a punishment. The Bible tells us that punishment is death. Jesus was the only perfect person ever, and he didn't deserve to be punished. Yet Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin when he died on the cross.

### 3. What can we do to earn salvation?

We can do nothing to earn salvation. It is a free gift!

## COMMIT

### 1. How does Jesus become your Forever Friend?

You need to ask Jesus to be your Forever Friend. You can do this by praying a version of the ABC prayer (admit you sin, believe that Jesus is God's son and that he died on the cross and rose again, and commit your life to following him.)

### 2. What does it mean to commit your life to Jesus?

When we make Jesus the leader of our life and promise to do our best to follow him we are committing our life to Jesus.

### 3. Is there anything in your life you already know you need to change now that you've asked Jesus to be your Forever Friend?

Answers may vary: Jesus should be first in your life, certain sinful habits will need to change, you should think of others more highly than yourself, etc.

## BAPTISM

### 1. When should we be baptized?

You should be baptized soon after you make Jesus your Forever Friend.

### 2. Why is baptism something to be celebrated?

Baptism is an opportunity to tell the whole world that Jesus is your leader and Forever Friend!

### 3. Are you ready to be baptized? If so, why?

If Jesus is your Forever Friend you should be ready to be baptized. You should be excited about telling everyone else about the important decision you have made!

## THE BIBLE

### 1. How would you describe the Bible?

The Bible is God's Word! It is filled with true stories and important lessons to teach us how to live.

### 2. Why should the Bible be a part of our daily life?

The Bible is our instruction manual. It teaches us right from wrong and helps us live a life that is pleasing to God. We need to read God's Word daily to stay connected to God and to keep learning the lessons he has for us.

### 3. Why do you think God gave us the Bible?

Answers may vary: God gave us the Bible so we could know him more and learn how to live a life that glorifies him.

## PRAYER

### 1. Why is prayer an important part of our relationship with God?

Prayer is one of the important ways we stay connected to God. We can share anything with him. He also wants to speak to us through our quiet times of prayer as we listen for his promptings.

### 2. How often should we pray? Where can we pray?

The Bible tells us we should pray all the time! We can pray anywhere, at any time!

### 3. What are some things you would like to pray about?

We can pray about anything! God wants to hear about our best moments and our hardest trials. God also wants to hear our praise as we thank him for his many blessings! We can be open and honest with God about what is happening in our hearts.

# FAMILY CONNECTION ANSWER KEY

## LOVE

### 1. Why should we love God more than anyone or anything else?

God is our Heavenly Father. He loves us and created us and wants to be in a relationship with us. We love God because he first loved us. He has blessed us with so many things; most importantly our salvation. God deserves our total devotion and highest praise.

### 2. Why is giving to the church and being generous with our money important?

Everything we have, our money included, belongs to God. God has instructed us in his Word to tithe, or give 10%, of our earnings back to him to help build and support his Church. Being generous with our money is one way we can help others and share God's love with the world.

### 3. What are some ways we can worship God?

Answers may vary: Singing, giving, serving, using our gifts and talents to help the Church and to help others, etc.

## SERVE

### 1. Why should we serve other people?

Jesus came to serve! We should always follow his example. Serving is a way we can show other people God's love. It also helps us to grow!

### 2. Can you think of some examples of how Jesus served people?

Answers may vary: Jesus washed the disciples feet, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, etc.

### 3. Reflect on your gifts and talents. How can you use those gifts to serve others?

Answers may vary: If you are an athlete you can invite other kids from your neighborhood to play with you. If you are a great artist you can create artwork and deliver it to hospitals to hang in patients' rooms. If you have a beautiful singing voice you can raise your voice loud in CedarVille and praise God for all he has done for you.

## TELL

### 1. What mission has Jesus given us?

Jesus wants us tell the whole world about him!

### 2. What would happen if every Christian told their family and friends about Jesus?

Answers may vary: More and more people would learn about Jesus and how much he loves them. We could reach the whole world!

### 3. What are some ways you can tell others about Jesus?

Answers may vary: Invite friends to church, share with your friends why Jesus is your Forever Friend and explain the ABC prayer to them, serve others and be an example of God's love, etc.

Color Me!



Color Me!



CEDARCREEKCHURCH



  CedarCreek**Kids**