**Announcements for Spring 2024**

These faith-building ideas for families are ready to be shared via email, on a social media platform such as Facebook, or in a weekly bulletin or newsletter. Each week’s suggestions coordinate with the Shine curriculum that children and junior youth use during Christian education time. Announcements for this quarter run from Sunday, March 3 through May 26. Modify the dates as needed to match your church’s schedule.

**Add this explanation the first week you send out or post the announcements:**

Today we are beginning a weekly announcement for families of children and junior youth. Each Sunday you will find faith nurture ideas that coordinate with the weekly session plans from the Shine curriculum your child’s group uses. The Bible story can be read from *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* which is available for purchase from www.ShineCurriculum.com/shop. Or simply read it from a translation of your choice. Each week includes the prayer practice that your child(ren) was introduced to during Sunday school. Continue that practice each day.

*****Session 1*

**March 3, 2024**

**Jesus Enters Jerusalem**

**Read** page 260 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Mark 11:1–11. How would you honor Jesus if he came to your home or town?

**Pray** prayers of praise. After each prayer, say “Hosanna” together. For instance, “We praise you, God, for your love. Hosanna!”

**Make** Palm Sunday crosses. Search for “Tutorial: Palm Sunday Cross” on YouTube for a demonstration and instructions.

*****Session 2*

**March 10, 2024**

**Jesus in the Temple**

**Read** page 262 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible*. Or read Mark 11:15–19. How do you respond when you see people being treated unfairly? Read page 266 or Mark 12:38–44. When have you given generously?

**Pray** silent prayers of confession. (Tell God something you feel sorry about.) Then as a family say, “God forgives us and loves us.”

**Read** *Four Feet, Two Sandals* by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed (also available on YouTube). Talk about experiences of giving and sharing.

*****Session 3*

**March 17, 2021**

**The Last Supper**

**Read** page 274 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Mark 14:12–26**.** How do you think Jesus felt knowing that someone was going to betray him? Have you ever been betrayed?

**Pray** a prayer of confession. Silently tell God something you feel sorry about. Then tell each other, “Jesus loves you no matter what.”

**Search** online for “multicultural paintings of the Last Supper” to see the ways this Bible story has been depicted by different artists. Which do you like best and why? Make your own drawing.

*****Session 4*

**March 24, 2024**

**Jesus’ Arrest and Death**

**Read** pages 276 and 279 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Mark 14:32–15:47. How does this story make you feel? What questions do you have?

**Pray** a prayer of lament. Name things that bring you sadness from your own lives or the world. Respond by praying together, “How long, oh Lord?” Close by saying, “Lord, bring your peace.”

**Listen** to“Bring Your Peace” on *Everybody Sing: Worship Songs for Children*, track 9,or search on YouTube for “Bring Your Peace” by The Walking Roots Band.

*****Session 5*

**March 31, 2024**

**Jesus Is Risen!**

**Read** page 280 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Mark 16:1–8. Name two people you turn to during sad and happy times.

**Pray** joyful prayers of praise! Take turns naming things you praise God for and have everyone respond by saying, “Alleluia!”

**Decorate** hard-boiled eggs. Search for “Making Pysanky(ish) Eggs with Kids” at www.homeschoolroom.comfor a fun technique.

*****Session 6*

**April 7, 2024**

**Jesus’ Ascension**

**Read** page 290 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 1:1–11. What questions might the disciples have asked Jesus when they saw him after the resurrection?

**Pray** joyful prayers of praise! Take turns naming things you praise God for and have everyone respond by saying, “Alleluia!”

**Write** letters or draw pictures for people who live far away or that you haven’t been able to visit lately. Jesus was no longer with his disciples in person, but still loved and cared for them.

*****Session 7*

**April 14, 2024**

**Pentecost**

**Read** page 294 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 2:1–12, 37–39. What surprises you about this story? How would have felt if you were in the crowd?

**Pray** “praise God” prayers. Name things you are grateful for and respond together by saying, “We praise you, God!”

**Cut** flame shapes from red, orange, and/or yellow tissue paper. Take turns hiding them around your home. When other family members find them, say, “God’s Spirit is with you.”

*****Session 8*

**April 21, 2024**

**Living in Community**

**Read** page 296 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 2:41–47. How is your church similar to and different from the one in this story?

**Pray** for people in your church. Ask God to meet each person’s needs and to show you how your family can support your faith community.

**Make** or buy a meal or snacks to share with a neighbor or family at church. Include a handwritten note or drawing.

*****Session**9*

**April 28, 2024**

**Philip and the Ethiopian Official**

**Read** page 300 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 8:5–6, 26–40. Who helps you learn and understand the Bible? What questions do you have about the Bible?

**Pray** with play dough. As you pray for people, form the play dough into a letter or shape to represent your prayer for that person.

**Create** a “good news” video, magazine, or picture. Just like Philip shared the good news of Jesus, tell “good news” stories from your own lives or from the community.

*****Session 10*

**May 5, 2024**

**Saul’s Conversion**

**Read** page 302 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 8:1b–3; 9:1–31. Talk about a change you have experienced or a time you saw another person make a big change.

**Pray** for someone you find difficult to like or get along with. Ask God to give you patience and compassion as you relate to that person.

**Read** *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O’Neillor watch it on YouTube. The new kid became friends with the playground bully. The followers of Jesus changed when they welcomed Saul.

*****Session 11*

**May 12, 2021**

**Peter and Cornelius**

**Read** page 306 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 10:1–48. How do you feel knowing that God does not have favorites?

**Pray** for your family. Invite each person to name one joy and one concern they have. Respond to each one by saying together, “God is with you.”

**Make** a welcome mat or banner for your home. Include a message such as “Everyone is welcome here.”

*****Session 12*

**May 19, 2024**

**Lydia**

**Read** page 308 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 16:11–15, 40. Lydia went to the river to pray. Where would you go outside to pray?

**Pray** for people in your community, such as teachers, healthcare workers, and local leaders.

**Listen** to “Down to the River to Pray” on YouTube. There are many versions available, including ones by Alison Krauss, a virtual choir, and the Bethel College Choir singing in a grain bin!

*****Session 13*

**May 26, 2024**

**Paul and the Corinthians**

**Read** pages 313 and 315 in *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* or Acts 18:1–11; 2 Corinthians 8:1–5, 12–15; 9:6–8. Tell about a time you shared generously.

**Pray** for people who do not have enough food or clean drinking water. Research and then pray for organizations that are helping address these needs locally and around the world.

**Build** a tent out of sheets, blankets, chairs, boxes, and anything else you have! Talk about Paul and his friends making tents together.