

Love Your Neighbor
as Yourself

Family Bible Adventures

This summer, we're encouraging YOU, *as a family*, to dive into *God's Word* as we discover what it means to, "love your neighbor as yourself." Work your way through each section below, and be sure to interact together as *an entire family!*

Know a family who might benefit from these Family Bible Adventures? Be sure to **pass along this PDF and each edition's online link** so that others can join in on the adventures!

LEARN the story >>> **Esther** <<<

This week, our story is split into two parts. To see a puppet show of the story, check out the following two links. After watching the first part of the story, take a break to answer the questions below. Then, jump back in with the second part. Not able to listen to both during one sitting? No problem. Just make sure to return to the story so you can hear how it all ends!

Part 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sP985dvo6kA>

1. How did Esther become queen?
2. Why was Haman so mad at Mordecai?

Part 2:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cloGESs8niQ>

1. Who actually wrote the law that saved the Jewish people?
2. How does this story relate to our theme of "love your neighbor as yourself"?

Want to go a bit deeper?, TRY THESE QUESTIONS on for size!
Be sure to discuss each of your answers with one another >



1. Going to the king to ask him to spare the Jews from being killed was very dangerous for Esther, and she likely would have been very scared! Have you ever had to do something really hard, or scary? Who would you talk to before doing this hard or scary thing?
2. Throughout the entire story, "God" wasn't named at all. And yet, God was still at work through situations and people. Where was God at work in the story of Esther?
3. Do you think God still works through situations and people today? How? Where? When?
4. In the middle of the story, Mordecai tells Esther: "Who knows? Perhaps you were created for such a time as this!" For what do you think God has created to do? to be?

<< PLEASE NOTE >>

By submitting photos, you are granting permission to Shepherd of the Cross and Grace Lutheran Churches to use them on their websites and social media platforms.

2nd Edition
from
GRACE LUTHERAN &
SHEPHERD OF THE CROSS

JULY 15, 2020

Each Family Bible Adventure

will have three
intriguing components for
you and your family to
explore together

Learn



Live



Pray



REMEMBER!



SNAP A PIC!

In our first edition of FBA, we encouraged families to use a random acts of kindness jar throughout the summer. Continue making your way through your jar and be sure to send your pictures to us by emailing them to:

office@shepherdofthecross.org

We hope to share these pictures with others so that *together*, we can see how we are loving our neighbors as ourselves as an entire *community*. Help us build a virtual bulletin board!

Look for our next
editions in the
coming weeks,
focusing on >

Fruit of the Spirit
Feeding of the 5000



LIVE the story >>>

Each week, we'll provide an activity for you that relates to the story. Here are some basic instructions and debriefing questions >



Are you a good listener?

In the middle of the story, the king had the choice to *LISTEN*, or NOT to *LISTEN*, to Queen Esther. Either listening, or not listening, would've had consequences. If the king *didn't* listen to Esther, the Jewish people would've been killed. And that would have been terrible! But if the king *did* listen to Esther, the Jewish people would be saved. And that's great news!

So, for our activity, we're challenging you to practice listening by playing a game of Simon Says with your family. Use some normal prompts—like “do 10 jumping jacks” – but also be sure to throw in some curveballs as well—like “running around squawking like a bird!”.

After you play, consider these questions:

- How did you do with the game? Were you *always* able to listen really well, or did you mess up a few times?
- When you were told to do something really *weird*, did you always want to do it? Have you ever been told to do something that you weren't expecting to hear? How did you respond?
- Have you ever had the urge NOT to listen to someone?
- What makes it sometimes difficult to listen to what people have to tell us?

In the story of Queen Esther, the king might have been hesitant to hear what Esther was telling him. Esther was *super brave* in standing up for her people. But if the king listened to her, it could have been seen as going against his top officials, especially Haman. But just as the king needed to listen to what Esther had to say, and then do something about it, sometimes we need to listen to those “hard” things that others have to say, and then do something about it.

Even at such a time as this, we have the opportunity to show love to our neighbors by listening to what others are saying: even when it might be a difficult thing to hear, and even when it might challenge us to rethink how we act, or what we do. And...even at such a time as this, we have the opportunity to show love to our neighbors by calling attention to situations that are “not right” and by standing up for the needs of others. Just think... in doing so, we might be loving our neighbors “for such a time as this” – just like Queen Esther!

Most often, it isn't a challenge to listen to what others have to tell us. But sometimes, when someone tells us something that challenges us, or tells us something we *don't want to hear*, it might be difficult.

PRAY the story >>>

Now that you and your family members have reviewed the story and are doing all the related activities, we invite you to PRAY. Each edition, we'll share a different model of prayer. Here's this session's prayer >



Chalk Prayer

It's time to get OUTSIDE, grab a piece (or more) of chalk, and get creative!

- Look at the first piece of chalk you grabbed. What color is it? If it is like more chalk, it is probably a bright color. Think of a “bright spot” in your life. Draw that “bright spot” and/or how it makes you feel. After you finish drawing, give thanks to God for that “bright spot” in your life.
- After drawing a “bright spot” in your life, think of those you know or even those around the world. Think of someone, or a group of people, who could use a “bright spot” in their life. Draw that person or situation, and/or how you think that person or people in that situation may feel. After you finish drawing, offer a request (your “petition”) to God for that person or situation.
- When complete, write AMEN in big, bold letters underneath your drawings!

ONE more thing to consider >>>



Throughout the summer, we are exploring ways to love our neighbor as yourself. Later this summer, we will be looking at the story of Jesus feeding the 5000. To help us prepare for our activity, we need YOU to **start collecting spare cash and coins**. Money collected will go toward the Muscatine Area Food Pantry. Think of a few extra chores you might be able to do for your family, or even a neighbor. See if they would be willing to give you a quarter for your service that you could donate to the Food Pantry in the coming weeks! **We will collect contributions on August 12.**

<<< **Thanks for joining with us for this Family Bible Adventure!** >>>

**We pray God's blessings upon you as you grow in faith, in love, and in compassion this summer!
May Christ's love go with you to keep you, and all our neighbors, safe and healthy!**