

NOTE TO PARENTS: The goal of this series is to teach kids how to live out their faith in the day-to-day, talking with God in the everyday moments without it feeling like faith is something to check off a to-do list.

Each week will follow a theme and have a list of suggestions that can be slotted into your daily routine. Please don't feel pressured to do everything! Pick a couple of things you think your kids will enjoy. This isn't meant to be a sit down lesson, but easy-to-put-together activities that can be done whenever you have a chance. A lot of the content is play based, using games as a tool to get kids thinking about God and creating intentional conversations.

WEEK FIVE: God is...our Healer

Aim: For kids to understand God can heal us and comfort us; not only physically, but in mind and spirit too.

Memory Verse

Psalm 147:3 NLT "He [God] heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds"

Suggestions:

- Call out an accent/ tone, your kids recite the verse as best they can in that voice. (Monster voice is often a favourite!) You can call a change mid-verse.
- Use painters' tape on the side of Jenga blocks. Write one word from the verse on each block. Mix the blocks with words into the rest and set up a game. Every time you move a block with a word on the side try and recite the verse from that word on.
- Write each word of the verse onto post-it notes. Put them up around the room (out of order.) Kids run between the post-its to read the verse in order. Turn it into a time challenge, how fast can they go?

Things to do...

Suggestions:

- Make noise for medical workers at 7pm. Talk with your kids about how God can miraculously heal, and also gives wisdom and skills to doctors and medical workers and uses them to heal too.
- Make a card and mail it to someone who isn't feeling well, or someone who is struggling in this season. Let them know you're praying for them.
- Play dress up and pretend to be doctors, nurses or paramedics.
- Play hospital. Put band aids on toys and use paper streamers or toilet roll for bandages.

- Make chicken noodle soup for dinner. LINK: Soup is comforting when you're sick. God heals, He also comforts those who are in pain or who are unwell!
- Build a Lego house, or make a house from a cereal box. LINK: Use it to retell the bible story later. *Warn your kids they'll need to put a hole in the roof later to tell the story.
- Learn some magic tricks. YouTube Tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nl_Mr_4JZwk LINK: Discuss how Jesus' miracles were genuine, not a trick.
- Have a first aid kit at home? Let your kids look through it. What are the different things used for?

Things to watch...

Suggestions:

- Right Now Media has some great resources. If you don't have an account, please email the church and we'll set you up with a free login.

1. Superbook, Season 1, Episode 9 'The Miracles of Jesus'
2. Iesodo: Hope, Episode 1, 'A Flight of Faith'

Things to read...

Suggestions:

- Jesus' Miracles Luke 5:17-26

When our friends are sick we can bring them to Jesus by praying for them. We have faith he can heal and comfort them.

(To help your kids engage with what's happening in the scripture you could act out or recreate what happened using toys).

- Read 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson (If you don't own the book, there are readings on YouTube.

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

LINK: We can show God's care to others, through prayer and kindness. People can use the skills God gave them to share God's comfort.

Things to talk/think about...

- Who do you know who is sick or struggling?

Commit to pray for them. (Make a reminder and post it somewhere you'd see it. If you don't know someone by name, you can pray for your local hospital.)

- How can you share God's care and comfort with others? Discuss practical things you can do as a family. (Examples: Care packages. Phone someone to see how they're doing. Send someone an encouragement card.)

- Sometimes God doesn't do things the way we expect, or in the timing we'd like. It's good to talk about that with your kids. (We have faith God can heal, we've read accounts that testify that is true. You might have seen someone healed before! Don't be discouraged if your prayers aren't answered right away. It is right to have faith; it is right to ask God to heal; it is right to pray and keep praying, trust and keep trusting. It's also okay to feel sad when people are sick; God cares and created us to care too. Having faith is about trusting who He is, and trusting His timing and care for people.)