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| How to Use FamilyConnect |  |

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| :FC Digital4.png |  | Search Institute published research showing that people are more likely to grow in their faith when their families put faith into practice at home. According to Search Institute, “Four family practices are particularly important for helping young people grow in faith (both in childhood and adolescence): talking about faith with your mother; talking about faith with your father; having family devotions or prayer; and doing family projects to help other people.”  FaithWeaver NOW FamilyConnect® is designed around these family practices and was created to help you equip families to grow in their faith. FamilyConnect gives busy families an easy-to-use idea to start conversations about faith at least once during the week. These weekly pages reinforce what’s being learned in FaithWeaver NOW® Sunday school, and they’re a great way to keep families connected—just email the pages or print them out!  Quick Tips  • Create an email sign-up sheet for parents to fill out and return, if you don’t already have one.  • In your email software, create a distribution list of parents’ email addresses.  • Put the distribution list (or separate names) in the BCC field to avoid exposing email addresses to all recipients.  • Set up a weekly reminder to send out the FaithWeaver NOW™ FamilyConnect PDFs to parents.  • Consider creating a standard email cover letter to send out weekly, or copy and paste the following sample:  Dear Parent,  Thank you for your child’s participation in our Sunday school program. Attached you’ll find a simple tip to help you start a faith conversation with your child sometime during the week. You are your family’s FaithWeaver, and your actions and words are having a tremendous impact on your child’s faith! Thanks for all you do. |

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| Solomon Tells of Jesus’ Coming | WEEK  1 |

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| Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png  Bible Point  Jesus does great things.  Key Verse  “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).  Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png  Sneak Peek  Don’t miss next week when we discover that we can trust God’s plans. |  | We learned this week how Solomon wrote of the amazing things Jesus would do when he came to earth. And we discovered that Jesus is still doing amazing things today (Psalm 72:1-19). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.  Parents  Talk with your children about some of the great things you know Jesus did while he was here on earth. For example, you might talk about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, or you might share examples of how Jesus healed the sick. Then ask your kids to think about the great things Jesus has done for them. Encourage your kids to talk about things such as Jesus protecting them from harm, Jesus forgiving their sins, or Jesus healing them from illnesses. Remind your kids that Jesus is just as active in doing great things today as he was when he physically walked the earth.  Pray  God, thank you for giving us the Bible so we can read about the amazing things Jesus did while he was here on earth. Please show us each day the amazing things Jesus is doing in our lives and in the lives of the people around us. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **An Angel Appears to Joseph** | **WEEK**  **2** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Trust God’s plans.  **Key Verse**  “ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ” (Jeremiah 29:11).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus was born to be our Savior. |  | We learned this week how an angel appeared to Joseph and told him to take Mary as his wife even though she was already pregnant. Joseph listened to the angel, and Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Like Joseph, we can trust God’s plans (Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easyidea.  **Parents**  Talk about a time you thought you knew the best plan, but things didn’t work out the way you thought they would. Maybe you chose not to follow a map because you thought you knew where you were going, but you got lost instead. Or perhaps you accepted an offer for what you thought would be your dream job, but it ended up sapping your energy and taking away your family time. Encourage your kids to share examples of times their plans didn’t work out in the ways they envisioned either. Then as a family, talk about times it’s hard to trust God’s plans, and discuss what keeps you from trusting him in specific situations.  **Pray**  Lord, we know you have good plans for our lives. We also know that you know and see everything, so we can trust you with every detail of our lives. Please teach us to give up control and trust you with the decisions we need to make each day. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Jesus Is Born** | **WEEK**  **3** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Jesus was born to be our Savior.  **Key Verse**  “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’ ” (John 14:6).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that anyone can worship Jesus. |  | We heard this week how angels appeared to the shepherds in the fields and told them that the Savior had been born. We also learned that all people can receive forgiveness for their sins if they come to God through Jesus (Luke 2:1-20; Hebrews 1:1-4). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasyidea.  **Parents**  Talk with your kids about a time someone forgave you even though you didn’t deserve it. Explain to your kids how you reacted to being forgiven and how that impacted your relationship with that person. Then talk with your kids about the forgiveness God offers each of us through Jesus even though we’ve done nothing to deserve it. Discuss ways your family can begin to share with the people God has placed in your life the exciting news of Jesus’ birth and the salvation he brings.  **Pray**  God, thank you for creating a way for us to be forgiven through Jesus. And thank you for sending Jesus to die for us before we were even born. Help us share with others why Jesus was born and why his birth matters even today. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Foreign Visitors Worship Jesus** | **WEEK**  **4** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Anyone can worship Jesus.  **Key Verse**  “For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’ ” (Romans 10:12-13).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that God guides us. |  | We learned this week how wise men from the east followed a star until they came to the place where Jesus was. We also learned that the wise men bowed down and worshipped Jesus and presented him with gifts. Like the wise men, we know that everyone can worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasyidea.  **Parents**  Tell a story about yourself (or someone in your family’s history) and how you came to the decision to trust and worship Jesus. Share about the events leading up to your relationship with Jesus and how knowing Jesus has changed your life. Then encourage your kids to share about their own relationships with Jesus. Discuss ways you worship Jesus in your daily lives. Remind your kids that they can worship Jesus not only by singing his praises at church but also by living their lives in a way that honors God.  **Pray**  God, thank you for making it possible for everyone to have a relationship with you. Please help us worship Jesus with our lives to remember the amazing things he has done for us. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt** | **WEEK**  **5** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  God guides us.  **Key Verse**  “The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him” (Nahum 1:7).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus is God’s Son. |  | We learned today how God told Joseph in a dream to flee from Herod, who was trying to kill Jesus. We also heard how God told Joseph when it was safe to come home. Like Joseph, we need to listen to God and follow where he leads (Matthew 2:13-23). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home witheasyidea.  **Parents**  Talk with your kids about a time you avoided some sort of disaster or hurtful event because you had a gut feeling and changed your plans. For example, maybe you moved up a doctor’s appointment, and the doctor found something unexpected and was able to treat you before there were serious consequences. Or maybe you chose to take a different route to work and later found out someone had an accident on your usual route right about the time you would’ve been in that same place. Discuss as a family how God can guide us using simple things such as feelings, intuition, and dreams, or through more concrete things such as the Bible and other people’s advice. Then encourage your kids to talk about ways they’ll seek God’s guidance this week.  **Pray**  God, thank you that you care enough about each of us that you want to guide and protect us each day. Please teach us to listen to you and follow where you lead. In Jesus’ name, amen*.*  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Jesus Is Baptized** | **WEEK**  **6** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Jesus is God’s Son.  **Key Verse**  “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus is our friend. |  | We learned this week that when John baptized Jesus, the Spirit of God came down on Jesus in the form of a dove. And we discovered that God spoke from heaven and said, “This is my Son, whom I love” (Matthew 3:13-17). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.  **Parents**  Ask your kids to tell you in their own words who Jesus is. If your kids have trouble coming up with an answer, encourage them to share what they know about Jesus. For example, kids might say “Jesus loves me” or “Jesus died on the cross and rose again” or “Jesus performed miracles.” Then explain to your children that Jesus is God, who came to earth in human form. Share with your kids how God sent his only Son to earth to die for our sins so we can have a relationship with him.  **Pray**  God, we know that you love us because you were willing to give up your only Son so we could have the opportunity to live with you forever in heaven. Please remind us of your sacrifice each day so we’ll live in a way that pleases you. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus** | **WEEK**  **7** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Jesus is our friend.  **Key Verse**  “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus wants everyone to follow him. |  | We learned this week that John told two of his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God. When these men heard this, they followed Jesus to where he was staying and spent the day getting to know him. Like the disciples, we can get to know Jesus and have a friendship with him (John 1:35-42). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with this easy idea.  **Parents**  Talk with your children about your best friend. Share how you met your friend, some of the things you’ve done with your friend, and some of the characteristics that make that person a great friend. Encourage your children to talk about their relationships with their best friends as well. Then talk about the things it takes to keep a friendship strong, such as shared interests or spending quality time together. Think together as a family about how those things translate into a friendship with Jesus. Encourage family members to commit to spending more time this week on growing their relationships with Jesus.  **Pray**  Jesus, we’re in awe that you want to have a friendship with us. This week, please help us spend time talking to you and learning more about you so we can be friends. In your name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **News About Jesus Spreads** | **WEEK**  **8** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Jesus wants everyone to follow him.  **Key Verse**  “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that God blesses us when we choose his ways. |  | We learned today that Jesus went through Galilee preaching in the synagogues and teaching the good news of God’s forgiveness. We also discovered that as Jesus taught, people with every kind of illness and ailment came to Jesus, and he healed them (Matthew 4:12-25). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home witheasy idea.  **Parents**  Remind your kids about a time they came to you for help. For example, maybe your child couldn’t figure out a math problem. Or perhaps your child was struggling with a bully at school and asked you to talk to the teacher or the other child’s parent. Then talk with your kids about the fact that Jesus wants us to come to him when we need help. Encourage your kids to talk about what it looks like to come to Jesus and how Jesus might respond in specific situations. Then as a family, come to Jesus in prayer.  **Pray**  God, we need your help. We know that you healed the sick and performed miracles, and we need you to help us today. Please help us with [name each situation discussed]. We love you and we praise you. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Jesus Gives the Beatitudes** | **WEEK**  **9** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  God blesses us when we choose his ways.  **Key Verse**  “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Philippians 4:8).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that we help others see Jesus. |  | We learned this week how Jesus taught the disciples that God blesses us when we choose his ways. We discovered that God is pleased when we’re merciful, when we make peace, and when we have pure hearts (Matthew 5:1-12). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasy idea.  **Parents**  Share with your kids a unique characteristic you’ve seen in them that you know pleases God. Make sure to include specific examples of those characteristics. For example, you might share how you’ve seen your child be generous with time or money. Or you might talk about how you’ve seen your child be forgiving and gracious to another family member. Ask your kids to come up with other positive attitudes and characteristics they’ve noticed in each other. Then encourage your kids to think about attitudes and characteristics in their lives that aren’t pleasing to God. Ask your children to commit to asking God to help them overcome those attitudes and behaviors to live in a way that pleases him*.*  **Pray**  Lord, we want to please you. Help us recognize bad attitudes and actions that aren’t from you. Please change us from the inside out. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Jesus Teaches That We Are to Be Salt and Light** | **WEEK**  **10** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Help others see Jesus.  **Key Verse**  “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus helps us believe. |  | We learned today that Jesus said we are to be “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” We also learned that when we let our light shine before others, they see the good things we do and praise God (Matthew 5:13-16). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasy idea.  **Parents**  Talk with your kids about someone you all know who seems to be reflecting the light of Jesus to other people. Discuss the effects that person has on others and how you feel when you’re around him or her. Then talk about ways that each family member can share the light of Jesus with other people, such as by giving someone a Christian book, serving through an act of kindness, or telling someone what Jesus has done for him or her personally. Commit to sharing the light of Jesus in one of the ways discussed. Then encourage each other throughout the week to share how you’ve followed through on being salt and light to the people around you.  **Pray**  God, you’ve given us life and joy. We want everyone around us to know you and have an amazing friendship with you. Please help us do good deeds so that other people will see you in us and praise your name. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Jesus Walks on Water** | **WEEK**  **11** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Jesus helps us believe.  **Key Verse**  “If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself” (2 Timothy 2:13).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that Jesus accepts everyone. |  | We learned this week that Jesus walked on water to get to the boat where the disciples were. When Peter saw Jesus, Peter got out of the boat and walked on water, too, until he became afraid and began to sink. Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and rescued Peter. Like Peter, we know that when we doubt, Jesus helps us believe (Matthew 14:22-33). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasy idea.  **Parents**  Discuss a time you doubted God and his ability to keep a promise he made in the Bible. Remember, kids can learn from your weaknesses as well as your strengths. Perhaps you lost a job and doubted God’s ability to provide for your family. Or perhaps you made such a big mistake that you doubted God could ever forgive you or use you again. Then talk about how God overcame your doubts and helped you believe by providing for you or using you in a way you could never have expected. Encourage your kids to share any doubts they might be having. Then, as a family, talk to God and ask him to take away your doubts.  **Pray**  God, we’re scared and we need your help. Please help us know that you’re in control when [name each doubt]. Thank you for listening to our prayers and for helping us believe. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree to See Jesus** | **WEEK**  **12** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Jesus accepts everyone.  **Key Verse**  “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that everyone is important to Jesus. |  | We heard today how Jesus spotted Zacchaeus up in a tree and told Zacchaeus that he would come to his house that day. We also learned that people were very upset by this because Zacchaeus was a sinner. However, Jesus reminded the people that he came to seek, save, and love everyone unconditionally (Luke 19:1-10). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasy idea.  **Parents**  Ask your kids the following questions to encourage a family discussion about unconditional love. What’s unconditional love? What does unconditional love look like? Who are people who give you unconditional love? How can I help someone know Jesus’ unconditional love? As a family, brainstorm ways you could reach out to people who don’t know the love of Jesus yet. Commit to following through on one of those ideas this week.  **Pray**  Lord, thank you for showing us unconditional love. We know we’re sinners and we need you to accept us just as we are. Please help us reach out to others who need to know about your unconditional love. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |

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| **Jesus Blesses the Children** | **WEEK**  **13** |

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital.png**  **Bible Point**  Everyone is important to Jesus.  **Key Verse**  “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Mark 10:14).  **Macintosh HD:Users:rswain:Desktop:FC Digital2.png**  **Sneak Peek**  Don’t miss next week when we discover that we pray to God. |  | We learned this week how the disciples tried to stop people from bringing their children to Jesus. When Jesus saw this, he got angry with the disciples and told them that unless they became like children, they would never enter heaven. Then Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, showing how important children are to him (Mark 10:13-16). Strengthen your family’s faith learning and growth at home with thiseasy idea.  **Parents**  Talk to your children about how much you love them and how important they are to you. You might even share with your children some details surrounding their births. For example, you might tell your children what you were thinking and feeling the first time you saw them. Or you might share about the moment you were proudest of each child. Then talk with your children about how important they are to God. Let them know that God loves them and cares for them a million times more than you ever can. Encourage your kids to talk about what it means to them to know they’re loved that much.  **Pray**  God, thank you for showing us how much you love and care for children. Thank you for proving to each of us how important we are to you by sending your only Son to die for us. Please remind us each day that we matter to you. In Jesus’ name, amen.  Our family thanks God for:  Our family talks to God about: |