

Illustration by Andrea Hill/Fitzgerald

# Jesus in the Temple

This month's Bible story is about Jesus in the temple. Read it from Luke 2:41–52 or from pages 180–181 in *The Peace Table*.

## Talk About It!

Jesus talked with teachers at the temple. Who is someone that has helped you learn important things about God or the Bible?

Jesus' family went to Jerusalem every year for the Passover festival. What faith traditions does your family or church have?

As Jesus grew, he grew in wisdom. Who do you know that is wise? What makes you think they are wise?

Jesus stayed and talked with the temple leaders to keep learning. What do you want to learn about God? About the Bible?



# God Loves You

Jesus and his family went to the temple together to worship God. Name some of the things you do at church, such as sing, pray, listen to Bible stories, give an offering, and spend time with friends. Celebrate the love of your church and your family by singing these words to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” Fill in the blank with the name of the child.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, God loves you.

And our church friends love you too.

When at church or far away,  
we can sing and pray each day.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, God loves you.

And our church friends love you too.

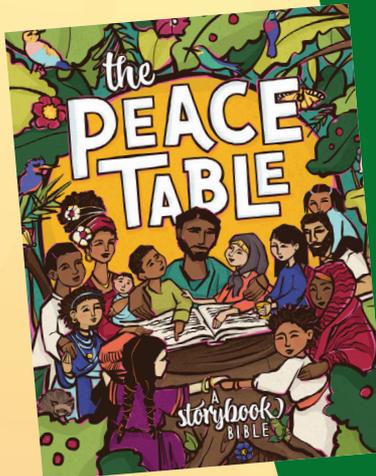
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, God loves you.

And our family loves you too.

Here at home and far away,  
God is with you every day.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, God loves you.

And our family loves you too.



*The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* contains faithful retellings of 140 Bible stories with beautiful illustrations depicting a diversity of ethnic communities. Each story has prayer prompts, questions, and action ideas. Shine Families will love it! Find links to sample pages with the QR code.



**Solution to Scripture Solvers**  
The unscrambled words: walk, hearts, my, happy, laws, right, strong, should, thanks  
The completed scripture verse: "Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey." —Psalm 119:105 (CEB)



Illustration by Elisa Chavarri

Dear Families,

Our “growing faith at home” practice this month is “Learning the Bible.” I think reading the Bible and praying are the starting point for all our Christian practices. From these two practices, we learn many other practices that help us become more like Jesus.

Learning the Bible—like faith formation itself—is a lifelong task. I’ve concluded that I will never be done exploring, learning, and wrestling with the Bible, and that’s okay because learning the Bible is endlessly interesting!

What is helping you learn the Bible? What do you want to learn next? Now that the busy fall and holidays are past, it’s a great time to refocus on this spiritual practice.

In these pages, you’ll find several different ways to read, study, and memorize the Bible this month. We share a Bible study method we’re calling “Doodle Bible Study,” a page of verses to memorize together, a psalm that inspires us to read the Bible, and a puzzle for word lovers. Start with whatever appeals to you most—there are many good ways to learn the Bible!

I close with Romans 15:4 from NIV: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”

May it be so,

Shana Peachey Boshart  
Shine Everywhere Project Facilitator

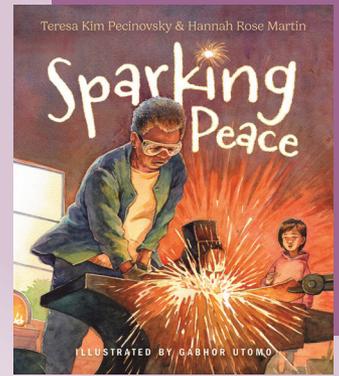
## Parent Tip

The Bible Project’s approach to scripture is very similar to Shine’s approach. They say, “The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus.” Find videos that introduce books of the Bible and themes in the Bible, as well as online Bible studies, classes, and a podcast at [BibleProject.com](http://BibleProject.com). Best of all, it’s free!

 BibleProject

# Picture Book Corner

*Sparking Peace* offers a creative and flexible way to talk about peacemaking. It is sensitively written by Teresa Kim Pecinovsky and Hannah Rose Martin. A child accidentally breaks the window of a neighbor and then makes it up to her by cleaning up her backyard and working with her to create a garden. The narrator's father also goes with the child to watch a blacksmith transforming something metal into a trowel. Community members—including the neighbor—take turns striking the metal on the anvil.



The book is inspired by the nonprofit RAWtools, Inc., which transforms guns into tools and trains people in relationship-building and problem-solving.

You can learn more about *Sparking Peace* by using the QR code on the back.

## Psalm 119 Puzzlers

Here are some fun facts about Psalm 119:

- This is the longest chapter in the Bible, with 176 verses.
- It is divided into 22 sections, and each section has eight verses.
- Each of the eight verses in a section begins with the same Hebrew letter.
- These Hebrew letters, in order, make up the Hebrew alphabet!
- Psalm 119 also uses many different words for *scripture*. How many can you find? Here are some words to start you off: word, precept, law.



*Shalom: peace, wholeness, or well-being.*

Unscramble the following words. Then place the circled letters in order on the spaces in the scripture verse below to finish it. The answers are upside down on the back page.

*Hint:* You can find all the answers for the scrambled words in Psalm 119:1–7.

WAKL	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">O</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> </div>
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RTGHI	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">O</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> </div>
NTGRSO	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">O</div> </div>
DOULSH	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">O</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> </div>
SAKTNH	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid purple; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">O</div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 15px;"></div> </div>

"Your word is a \_\_\_\_\_ before my feet and a \_\_\_\_\_ for my journey."

# A Doodle Bible Study

Here's a creative way to study the Bible with any scripture text you choose. Print out the text and write your doodles on the page or write your doodles in your Bible.

First, look for something that “shines” from the passage—whatever impacts you most or gets your attention. Draw rays radiating from those parts.

Second, underline words that appear more than once. Use different kinds of underlining for different words.

Third, put a question mark next to anything that you don't understand or that you would like to ask about.

Fourth, look for something that applies to your life, and draw an arrow pointing to it.

Fifth, draw a heart near or around the words that touch your heart most.

Finally, talk with others about your doodles and then pray together in response to what you learned.

Do a Doodle Bible Study with the scripture text below. You'll find three more scripture texts at the QR code. You could do a Doodle Bible Study every week this month!

## 1 John 4:7–12 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

## Hiding Scripture in Our Hearts

Cut off the following page and place it where you can see it. Over the coming month, memorize some of these scriptures. Family members could put a sticker or their initials next to the verses they learn.

## Psalm Prayers

We can pray using scripture. The book of Psalms is a collection of prayers and songs to God. Read the following verses from Psalms.

What would you say in your own words to add to these prayers?



WISDOM

HELP

THANKS

### Prayer for Wisdom

Teach me knowledge and good judgment because I've put my trust in your commandments. —Psalm 119:66 (CEB)  
*What would you like God to help you decide?*

### Prayer for Help

Be my rock of refuge where I can always escape. —Psalm 71:3a (CEB)  
*What concerns are you wanting to bring to God?*

### Prayer of Thanks

I give thanks to you, my Lord, my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name forever, because your faithful love toward me is awesome. —Psalm 86:12–13a (CEB)  
*For what would you like to thank God?*

# Hiding Scripture in Our Hearts

I will instruct you and **teach**  
you about the direction you should go.  
I'll advise you and keep my eye on you.  
—Psalm 32:8 (CEB)

Teach me **knowledge**  
and good judgment because  
I've put my trust in your  
commandments.  
—Psalm 119:66 (CEB)

But anyone who needs **wisdom**  
should ask God, whose very  
nature is to give to everyone  
without a second thought,  
without keeping score. **Wisdom**  
will certainly be given to those who  
ask. —James 1:5 (CEB)

The Lord gives **wisdom**;  
from his mouth come **knowledge**  
and **understanding**.  
—Proverbs 2:6 (CEB)

**Teach**  
the **wise**,  
and they will  
become **wiser**;  
inform the righteous,  
and their learning  
will increase.  
—Proverbs 9:9 (CEB)

An **understanding**  
mind gains **knowledge**;  
the ear of the **wise**  
seeks **knowledge**.  
—Proverbs 18:15 (CEB)

Happy are those who find **wisdom**  
and those who gain **understanding**.  
—Proverbs 3:13 (CEB)



Here are some fun ways to memorize:

- Divide it into chunks. Memorize each chunk, then link them together.
- Write it out. Hide a portion and recite what the hidden part says.
- Pair simple hand motions or say it to a beat.
- Sing the verses to a familiar tune.
- Learn and recite it together with others.