



### Main Scripture Passage – John 3:16

- G**=God's is Your Heavenly Father (1 John 3:1)
- O**=Our sin and why we need Jesus. (Romans 6:23)
- J**=Jesus is for us! (Romans 8:31)
- E**=Everything is forgiven with Jesus. (John 3:16)
- S**=Strength during the tough stuff. (Romans 8:34)
- U**=Ultimate victory! (John 10:28-29)
- S**=Say yes to Jesus! (Romans 10:9)

### Week 1: God Is Your Heavenly Father (1 John 3:1)

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*

Everyone has a mother and father, but did you know that you also have a Heavenly Father? In fact, we all have the same heavenly father, otherwise known as God! God created all things – the universe, earth, plants, animals and you and I. He created us to have a friendship with each of us and love us forever. God has great plans for each of us, and since he created us, he knows exactly how we think, act, what we like and dislike. God is even your parents Heavenly Father! God loves his children and desires to walk through life with you every day.

**Prayer: Thank God for being a loving Heavenly Father, who knows everything about us. Thank him for creating each of us in a special way and wanting to have a friendship with us. Ask God to show you His love for you and make you more aware of his daily presence.**

## **Week 2: Our sin and why we need Jesus (Romans 6:23)**

*For the wages of sin are death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Sin – if this word is new to you, it is defined as a thought, act or attitude that goes against the character of God and his word (the Bible). Sin came into the world through the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. Eve was tempted by a serpent (snake) that told her she could eat fruit from a certain tree that God has told her not to. She also gave it to Adam to eat and he did. This is an act against our Heavenly Father which unfortunately separated Adam and Eve from God and his plans for us. Through Adam and Eve we all have a “sin nature” now that separates us from God. Separation from God is spiritual death. We still are physically alive, but our spirit is not connected to God anymore.

God hated the idea of being separated from his children. Because of his love for us, he sent Jesus, his own Heavenly Son, to earth to live with us, teach us God's ways and DIE in our place. God raised Jesus from death, back to life in 3 days! Since we are separated from God by our sin, Jesus took our place and died for us, so we can have a friendship with God again! That is why it is important to believe in Jesus and what he did for us.

***Prayer: Thank God for sending his own son to die for us and raising him on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day back to life, so we may have a friendship with God again. Ask God to show you how your own sin affects you and others around you. Ask God to help you to believe in Jesus.***

### **Week 3: Jesus Is For Us! (Romans 8:31)**

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Sometimes it's hard to understand God and Jesus. We don't see them, except in paintings or stained glass. We are told he is there, but are they? YES! God and Jesus are more real than anything else. You don't have to see them, and you don't even have to feel them, but a lot of times you will. The feeling is like a small tug at your heart, like when you really care or love someone (like mom, dad, your grandparents). You just have to believe! Believing is like believing your mom and dad love you. They say they love you, but you don't really see it, and sometimes, it's hard to feel it, but you BELIEVE it. It's the same way with God and Jesus.

Jesus is always ready and waiting to help you, forgive you when you act against God, to teach you God's ways, to be there when you are sad and feeling alone. He will never leave you. He is all about you!

***Prayer: Thank God for Jesus being a brother and friend to us. Ask God to help you continue to believe in Jesus and ask him to help you BELIEVE even when you can't see or even feel him.***

#### **Week 4: Everything is Forgiven with Jesus (John 3:16)**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Many of you may be familiar with this scripture from the Bible. If you are not, here is a good explanation of what it means. As we have talked about in our other devotionals, God loves us very much. Because of God's great love, he could no bare being separated from his children, so he gave Jesus, His only son, to come down from Heaven, be born as a baby, live life as you and I, in a sin filled world, and die for us, so we didn't have to, to have a new friendship with God. The only thing we have to do is BELIEVE in Jesus, that he IS the SON of GOD and that HE DIED for US so all of our SINS can be forgiven and we can have an everlasting friendship with God and Jesus.

Believing in Jesus and accepting him as our SAVIOR, that's someone who saves us, gives us a fresh start, to be forgiven when we act, say or have an attitude that is not right. It also gives us a chance to learn God's ways and STOP sinning so much. Remember, we may still sin, even though we don't want to, but with Jesus there is always forgiveness when you believe in Him.

***Prayer: Thank Jesus for his forgiveness of our wrong doing, our sin. Thank God for His sacrifice to give us a Savior. Ask God to guide your belief in Jesus.***

## **Week 5: Strength During the Tough Stuff (Romans 8:34)**

*Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*

Many times, people who believe in Jesus are made fun of, or others don't believe they are telling the truth. It's hard to believe in God and Jesus with so many in the world saying it's not real. When you start to BELIEVE in Jesus, He will provide you with the strength and courage to keep BELIEVING. At this very moment, Jesus is alive and in Heaven with our Heavenly Father. Better yet, He is talking to God all about you! When you start to BELIEVE in Jesus, He tells God all about you, what a good son or daughter you are and how you have asked for forgiveness and need God's help. It's like Jesus put your picture on God's refrigerator and says, "This is your child God, he's great and we need to look out for Him."

This is what "interceding" is. Jesus will always be there to strengthen your belief, your desire to do what is right and not sin, be able to continue to believe in Him and God even when others may laugh or not agree with you. Jesus is the best friend you will ever have.

***Prayer: Thank Jesus for being such a good friend. Thank God for loving you as one of his children. Ask Jesus to strengthen your belief and protect you from the world when it tells you Jesus isn't real.***

## **Week 6: Ultimate Victory! (John 10:28-29)**

*I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

Eternal life – that's a really long time. Imagine someone living to be 100 years old, that's old right? Well, eternal life or eternity is even longer – in fact it never ends. It just keeps on going.

Sin separates us from God, and also separates us from eternal life with him in Heaven. That doesn't sound very good to me. I certainly don't think anyone wants to live in eternity without their loving Heavenly Father and Jesus.

Believing in Jesus GIVES us eternal life with GOD, in HEAVEN! Here's the even better part, when you believe in Jesus, nothing can separate you from Him or God. God gave him the power to protect and keep you from any harm that would keep you from eternal life. And God is even more powerful than Jesus and he promises that through your belief in Jesus Christ, His son, he projects our from any harm. There is no way you can be separated from God and Heaven again!

Sure, you will still make bad choices, but remember, you ask Jesus for forgiveness. Jesus made sure his death protected you and when you slip up, like we all do, He will forgive you!

***Prayer: Thank God for providing a way to protect you from ever being separated from Him again. Thank Jesus for his forgiveness of your sins, even when it happens again and again. Ask Jesus to teach you God's ways.***

### **Week 7: Say Yes to Jesus! (Romans 10:9)**

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

So, what do you think about Jesus? He's a pretty awesome person and the best friend you will ever have. Jesus is for you, not against you. Jesus knows the struggle of trying to do the right thing, but then doing the wrong thing. Jesus knows what it's like to be separated from His Heavenly Father, God! Jesus is here for you, to save you from sin, to give you a friendship with God, your Heavenly Father once again and FOREVER this time.

Believing in Jesus is the only part we have to do, He did everything else for us. He is right next to you waiting to help you, protect you, invite you back in to the family of God. You just need to say YES!

***Prayer: Ask Jesus to help you with BELIEVING this week. Thank Him for always being there waiting for you.***

### **WEEK 8: Accepting Jesus As Savior**

***During this week, there is no devotional, just a time to answer questions and ask players if they would like to accept Jesus as their Savior.***

***This is also a time to pray over the players (ask players to pray) who are unsure, but would like to know more.***