

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD IS HOPE

Letters to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 3—4; 2 Thessalonians 2

The believers at Thessalonica were “early adopters” of Christianity, leaving either paganism or the Jewish faith when they chose to follow Jesus. Because of this, they experienced persecution. They needed to know that in spite of difficult circumstances, they could have hope in God. The letters to Thessalonica address a number of ways believers need hope from God. Together these two epistles teach believers to stay faithful until Jesus returns and they teach a great deal about the time when Jesus returns.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD IS LOVE

Letter to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 12—13

Corinth was both wealthy and highly immoral. But the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write to the Corinthians, not about the surrounding culture, but the culture inside the church. The Corinthian believers were fussing about just about everything—which preacher was best, what foods were okay to eat, whether or not immorality was really wrong, and even who could bring the best meal to the Lord's Supper, a holy ceremony that had devolved into a bad church potluck. It is in this context, that Paul writes about the body of Christ needing all its members, not just the ones we agree with. And in this context that Paul writes, “Love is patient, love is kind. . . .” Love for each other is the cure for fussing—both inside the church and out.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- Located about 45 miles west of Athens, Corinth was one of the most important Greek cities in Paul's time.
- Paul spent more time in Corinth than in just about any other city.
- The city was extremely pagan with Greek, Roman, and Egyptian temples, some of which offered temple prostitutes.
- In Corinth's wholly pagan environment, where false “love” ran rampant, gave Paul a perfect opportunity to explain what true love is. God is love.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Grab a ball of yarn and gather your family in a circle. Read **1 Corinthians 13** (**Fire Bible, p.1428*). While holding one end of the yarn, toss the ball to another family member and share a way you've seen that person show others God's love (for example, maybe she forgives easily or goes out of her way to be kind). Then have her hold the yarn as she tosses the ball to another person. Continue tossing and sharing as you create a web in the middle of your circle. Share with your kids that the web represents how the Holy Spirit holds us together in love, because God is love.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- What are some characteristics of love?
- How does this passage describe God?
- How has God shown His love in your life?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God is love into your everyday family life.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 5:23

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may you know the amazing, huge, wonderful love of God. the Holy Spirit grow in you His love so you can love and care for others as He desires.

For more information about blessing your child, go <https://trufirecurriculum.com>. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.

