

JANUARY FAMILY FAITH KIT



**BLAST
OFF**



**BEING AN OUT OF THIS WORLD
WITNESS FOR JESUS**



BLAST OFF

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BLAST OFF

A Note for Parents

Blast Off is designed for families and children to learn more about being an "out of this world" witness for Jesus. This month we will be focusing on four stories from the New Testament that show us how to be witnesses for Jesus.

This resource includes the following:

- 4 Family Devotions (1 per week)
- 4 Games (1 per week)
- 4 Crafts (1 per week)
- 4 Space-Theme Snack Ideas (1 per week)

When is a good time to do these activities each week?

Use it on Saturday or Sunday and do all activities for that week in one day.

Or spread out the activities over the whole week. For example, you could read the devotion before school one morning. Then another day do the craft, next day game, next day make the snack.

Spending time together in God's Word as a family is so important. Once you create this habit, your children will want to do it every day and will remind you if you miss a day! These habits will hopefully form in your children a love of God's Word that will stay with them throughout their lives. You are building a foundation of God and His love into your children by spending time together in His Word.



FAMILY DEVOTION

Week 1 - A Witness Listens & Goes

Read Matthew 28:16-20 (The Great Commission)

****For preschoolers, read "Jesus Goes to Heaven" from *The Beginner's Bible* by Zonderkidz**

Are you ready to blast off and be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus?

Some of you may be saying....wait....I don't even know what a witness is! Well...let me share with you what a witness for Jesus is. A witness is someone who has seen an event take place. In regards to the Bible, the disciples were eyewitnesses to Jesus and His miracles and most importantly to the event of His resurrection (being raised from the dead). We were not eyewitnesses to these things, but because of our faith and belief in God and what is written in the Bible, we can be witnesses for Jesus, too. So being a witness for Jesus means that we go out and share about Jesus. We tell others about Him. We live our lives in a way that honors Jesus. We teach others how to be a follower of Jesus.

In our Bible verses today, we find Jesus having one final talk with His disciples before He goes up to heaven. He brought them up to a mountain in Galilee. They came to worship Him and talk with Him. During this last talk, He gives them a very important message: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus tells them to go out and make disciples, which means to go out and tell people about Him so they can become a follower of Jesus, too. Jesus wants the whole world to hear about Him and about what He has done for them. Jesus asks the disciples to teach others and also to obey everything He says. The disciples became amazing witnesses for Jesus as they traveled around and spoke about Him.

To be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus, we must listen and go, just as the disciples did. They listened to everything Jesus said while He was here on earth. And because they listened, they went and told others about Him. And by doing this, they obeyed Him. So we can learn from the disciples and become *out of this world* witnesses by listening and going out to tell others about Him.

So today, take time to be silent. Spend time reading His Word. And then listen and go.

Dear God, help me to be still and listen to You. Help me to read my Bible daily so I can learn more about You. Help me to go out and tell others about You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



FAMILY GAME

Week 1 - God Says...

Supplies Needed: None

Have you ever played the game Simon Says? Well, this game is just like it except that we are going to say "God Says" instead!

Being a witness for Jesus means listening to God and doing what He asks you to do. The game of "God Says" will be a fun way for you and your family to practice your listening skills!

To play this game, pick one person in your family to be "God." The other members of your family will be the ones to listen to God. The person who is playing "God" will say a command and the others will do what God says.

For example, God says, "jump up and down." (Others will jump up and down). God says, "open your Bible and read Matthew 28:19-20". (Others will find a Bible and read that Scripture out loud).

Keep saying fun commands and the others will follow. The way to get people out of the game is to shout out a command without saying "God Says." If a person does the thing God says then they are out of the game because you didn't say "God Says." Keep shouting commands until you have a winner. Repeat game if desired and pick another person to play "God" in the game.



FAMILY CRAFT

Week 1 - Play-Doh Earth

Supplies Needed: blue Play-Doh, green Play-Doh

In our Bible verse from today, Jesus commands His disciples to go out into all the world to tell about Him. So today, we will be making Play-Doh Earth shapes to help remind us to spread the name of Jesus to the whole world!

Take a large amount of blue Play-Doh and roll it into a ball. Take the green Play-Doh and roll it out into flattened shapes that resemble land. Press them on top of the blue Play-Doh. Now you have planet Earth.

As a family, read Matthew 28:19-20 again. Talk about how important it is to spread the name of Jesus to all people in the world.



FAMILY SNACK

Week 1 - Rice Krispie Earth Treats

Butter (salted cream butter is the best)

Mini marshmallows

Rice Krispies

I found a recipe on Pinterest for the best Rice Krispie treats! Visit the [Two Sisters Crafting website](#) for their perfect Rice Krispie Treats recipe.

After you make them, divide the batch in half. Add blue food coloring to one half and green food coloring to the other half. Roll a portion of the blue mixture into a ball. Then attach some green mixture onto the blue ball to make it look like land. Eat and enjoy!



FAMILY DEVOTION

Week 2 - A Witness Shines Bright

Read Acts 2:14-41 (Peter's Witness on Pentecost)

****For preschoolers, read "The Holy Spirit Comes" from The Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz**

On a clear night, have you ever noticed how bright the stars shine? They seem to light up the whole sky and are just so beautiful to look at.

When I think about how to be a witness for Jesus, I think about how bright the stars shine in the night sky. A witness for Jesus shines bright in this world (just like the stars) and lets others know about Him. Their actions and their words point others to Jesus. They stand out and are bright so that others can see Jesus through them.

One disciple that shone bright for Jesus was Peter. In today's story we are reading about the day of Pentecost. This is the day we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. After the Holy Spirit arrived, Peter stood up and spoke to the large crowd of people that were gathered in Jerusalem. He asked them to listen carefully to everything he was saying. He told them all about Jesus. He quoted Scripture from the Old Testament and showed how the prophets had prophesied about Jesus (which means to tell of what is to come).

I think my favorite verse in this passage is Acts 2:32, *"God has raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of it."* He tells them that they saw Jesus with their eyes and they witnessed all the miracles He performed and they witnessed the most powerful miracle...His resurrection. Peter is basically saying, *"Hey guys! We are so blessed to have actually witnessed the resurrection of Jesus! Isn't that so cool?"*

Peter got up and spoke in front of a very large crowd. He spoke boldly about Jesus and who He was and what He did for them. He listened to Jesus and what He told them to do by going and making disciples of all nations. Peter was a shining light for Jesus that day. And because he shone brightly for Jesus, many people came to believe in Jesus that day. And do you want to know how many? The Bible says around 3,000 people! Isn't that amazing? 3,000 people came to believe in Jesus because Peter was a witness for Him and spoke boldly about Him. Peter wanted so many people to know about the amazing God he served. And because he spoke and was a witness for Jesus, 3,000 people were saved that day.

Did you know that you can shine the light of Jesus? You can tell others about Jesus and who He is and what He has done for you. Take time to discuss as a family ways you can tell others about Jesus. How can you be a shining light where you are?

Light of the World, thank You for the story of Peter and how he boldly spoke about You to many people. Help me to do the same and tell others about Your love for them. Amen.



FAMILY GAME

Week 2 - Glow Star Hunt

Supplies Needed: 16 glow-in-the-dark stars

Before you use your glow-in-the-dark stars, you will need to expose them to light to get them ready so they can glow! Also, you will need to write one word from Acts 2:32 onto each star: "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact." (The 16th star will be the words "Acts 2:32"). Then you will need to hide the stars around your home (in dark rooms so they can glow).

In this game, you will search for the glow-in-the-dark stars that are hidden in the room. Each star has a word from Acts 2:32 printed onto it.

Your job is to find the stars and put them in the correct order of the Bible verse.

Next, go in search of the 16 stars. Make sure to keep the lights off as you search for them so you can see the glowing stars.

When all stars have been found, put the Bible verse in the correct order. Talk about how Peter shone brightly for Jesus and spoke about all he had witnessed about Jesus' resurrection.

***If you have preschoolers, you can shorten the Bible verse to "God has raised this Jesus to life." This will be easier for preschoolers to remember and recite.*



FAMILY CRAFT

Week 2 - Telescope

Supplies Needed: empty paper towel roll, small plastic cup, markers, paint, paintbrush, stickers

One thing we use to see stars clearer is a telescope. It helps us get a better look at something far away. It helps us see the stars shine brighter. A witness for Jesus shines bright in the world. And when people look at you, you want them to be able to see Jesus in you.

Today, you are going to make a telescope! First, take an empty paper towel roll and decorate it. You can use paint, markers, or stickers. Then, take the small plastic cup and cut out the bottom. Slide the cup onto the paper towel roll (top of cup should be pointing out). Tape or glue the cup to the paper towel roll if needed. Decorate the cup as you like.

Then, use your telescope to look at things up close or far away. Another fun way to use it is to use it while you are reading the Bible!

Remember to shine brightly for Jesus so that when people look at you, they see Jesus in you!



FAMILY SNACK

Week 2 - PB&J Sandwich Stars

Bread

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Star-shaped cookie cutter

***If allergic to peanut butter use sunflower butter or almond butter*

An easy and quick snack for kids that they love is PB&J sandwiches! Make your sandwich with peanut butter on one side and jelly on the other. Then cut star shapes out of the sandwich using a star cookie cutter. Serve star- shaped sandwiches for a fun snack.



FAMILY DEVOTION

Week 3 - A Witness Reads God's Word

Read Acts 8:26-40 (Philip & the Ethiopian)

I have a question to ask and I want you to be honest...*How often do you read your Bible?*

Take a minute to share your answer with your family.

One of the ways we can be a witness for Jesus is by reading our Bibles. And why is that important? Because in order for us to talk about Jesus to others, we have to know about Him. And we learn all about Him and what He did for us by reading our Bible.

One disciple of Jesus that helped tell others about Him was Philip. Our Bible story found in Acts 8 tells the story of Philip and his time spent with an Ethiopian eunuch (an important official in charge of all the money). An angel tells Philip to go down a desert road. On this road he encounters the eunuch who is reading the Scripture from the prophet Isaiah. As Philip approaches him, he asks him if he understands what he is reading. The eunuch then replies by saying, *"How can I unless someone explains it to me?"* (Acts 8:31). The eunuch was reading God's Word, but he wasn't fully understanding what he was reading. So Philip climbs into the eunuch's chariot and begins explaining everything to him. Philip shared with him the good news of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever read the Bible and not understood what you were reading? I think we can all raise our hands on that one and confess that we have! Sometimes the Bible is hard to understand, but I am thankful for pastors, Sunday school teachers, parents, and others who can help me by explaining what it means. The more we read the Bible, ask questions, and pray, the more we will learn.

I always say that it doesn't matter if you've read the entire Bible 10 times, you will always learn something new about God when you open and study His Word. I love when I read a passage of Scripture and a lightbulb goes off in my head and I understand what it says. I love how God shows me the Scriptures I need to read right at the time I need to hear what He's saying in it. And then I also love being able to go out and teach and share with others what I have learned. I love to share about all that God has taught me!

So back to our original question...if you answered that you don't read your Bible very much, I challenge you to set aside time each day to spend reading. Pick a book of the Bible, read a chapter a day, and soak up all you can about the amazing God we love and serve. And then...go out and be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus.

Loving God, help me to spend time with You more each day by reading Your Word. Help me to understand it and then to go out and share it with others. Amen.



FAMILY GAME

Week 3 - Launch God's Word

Supplies Needed: finger rocket launchers (found on Amazon), Sharpie

A witness for Jesus needs to know God's Word so they can go out and share it!

Today we are going to practice "launching" God's Word! On a finger rocket launcher, write the Bible verse from Matthew 28:19: *"Go and make disciples of all nations."*

Next, launch the rocket! And when you do, shout out the Matthew 28:19 Bible verse. You can also write on the rocket other favorite Bible verses that you love. And practice shouting out those Bible verses, too. The more you know God's Word, the more you will share it with others.



FAMILY CRAFT

Week 3 - Bible Verse Rockets

Supplies Needed: empty plastic soda or water bottle (use mini, regular, or 2-liter), acrylic paint, extra bottle caps, colored cardstock, scissors, hot glue gun (parent use only)

Blast off into the new year by creating your own Bible Verse rocket! This craft will help children remember to be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus by sharing His Word with others.

Take an empty plastic soda bottle (choose whatever size bottle your child would like to use) and fill it with the paint color of your choice. Pour in enough paint to coat the inside of the bottle. Put the cap back on the bottle and shake the bottle till the inside is fully coated with paint.

Next, take any extra bottle caps you have (paint them if you like) and hot glue them to the outsides of the bottle. Then cut 2 wings for your rocket using cardstock. Write on the wings the Bible verse from Week 1 from Matthew 28:19 "*Go and make disciples of all nations.*" Then fold a small portion of each wing down and glue that part to the outside of the bottle (one wing on each side of the bottle).

Have fun playing with your Bible Verse Rocket and remember to blast off and be an *out of this world* witness for Jesus!



FAMILY SNACK

Week 3 - Fruit Rockets

Cantaloupe or Pineapple

Marshmallows (regular size)

Strawberries

Skewers

Cut cantaloupe or pineapple to look like the base of a rocket. For the strawberry, cut off the top and then cut into thirds.

Take a skewer and place fruit onto it in this order: cantaloupe, strawberry, marshmallow, strawberry, marshmallow, strawberry (tip of strawberry should be at the top).

Eat and enjoy your fruit rockets!



FAMILY DEVOTION

Week 4 - A Witness Shares Where They Are

Read Acts 16:22-36 (Paul & Silas in Prison)

*****For preschoolers, read "Earthquake in Prison" from The Beginner's Bible by Zonderkidz***

Our Bible story today finds Paul and Silas (two disciples of Jesus) in prison. Paul and Silas had been teaching and preaching about the good news of Jesus and some people decided they did not like that at all. So guess what they did? They had Paul and Silas arrested! They were thrown into jail with actual criminals. Their arms and legs were chained together, too. It was not a fun place to be.

But do you know what they did in prison? They prayed and sang worship songs to God. Can you believe it? Why would they be singing and praying while they were chained up in prison? But Paul and Silas chose to use their time in prison as a way to be a witness for Jesus and tell others about Him. And what happens next is pretty exciting...

One night an earthquake happened. It shook the prison so hard that all the doors to the prison flew open and the prisoners chains were broken and they were free! But Paul and Silas chose not to run. Instead, they chose to be a witness for Jesus right there in the prison. The jailer thought everyone had escaped and he was ready to take his own life, but Paul and Silas told him not to and the jailer asked them about how to be saved and how he could come to know more about Jesus. And right there and then, the jailer took Jesus as his Savior. Then he took them home with him and all his family became believers in Jesus, too! Isn't that cool!

A witness for Jesus is always ready to share about Him wherever they are. Maybe that's in their home, at school, at work, at Walmart, or maybe even to someone on the side of the road. No matter where you are, you can always share about Jesus through your words and through your actions. Paul and Silas found themselves in prison (a place they didn't want to be nor a place they chose to be), but they decided to use that time to still be witnesses for Jesus.

I challenge you to always share about Jesus no matter where you are. Strive to live your life each day as an *out of this world* witness for Jesus. Let your words be kind and your actions reflect who Jesus is. It will not always be easy, but I believe you can do it! Go and be a witness for Jesus!

Loving God, help me share about You wherever I am. Help me to be bold and speak about You to others every day. Amen.



FAMILY GAME

Week 4 - Song Scattergories

Supplies Needed: paper, pen, timer

One of the things Paul and Silas did in prison that helped them be a great witness for Jesus was singing. They sang and sang their hearts out and praised Jesus!

In the regular game of Scattergories, you are given a letter and are to come up with names of things in that category that begin with that letter. For this game, you will be given a different **word** for each round and then you are to come up with songs that have that word in it. The word doesn't have to be in the title, but can be found in the song. *For example, you are given the word "love", then you have 3 minutes to come up with a list of songs with the word "love" in it. Some examples: Can You Feel the Love Tonight? (Lion King), Jesus Loves Me, How He Loves, Love is an Open Door (Frozen).*

To play this game, divide your family into teams (2 or more per team). One person will draw a word from the list for each round. **Your goal is to try and think of songs that the other team will not think of and write them down.** You want to have a unique song list.

Set a timer and then begin brainstorming and writing down songs that have those words in it.

After 3 minutes, come back together and compare lists. If teams have the same song on their lists, then all teams have to mark that song off their list. After all teams have gone through their list, count how many songs were not marked off and give yourself one point per song. Repeat and do another round with a different word. At the end, add up all the points to determine the winner!

Category Word Suggestions: love, joy, Jesus, baby, fun, Christmas



FAMILY CRAFT

Week 4 - Chain Link Prayers

Supplies Needed: construction paper strips, stapler, markers

Paul and Silas were in prison and were bound by chains. When the earthquake came, the prisoners chains became loose and they were free.

Today, you will make chain links and fill them with prayers to God. Take a strip of construction paper and write on it a prayer to God. Your prayer could be a simple prayer or a long prayer. It can be a prayer thanking God for what He's given you or it could be a prayer asking God to help you with a situation in your life. Use as many strips of paper as you like and fill them with your prayers to God.

After writing all your prayers, staple one strip to form a circle. Then weave another strip through that one and staple together. Continue stapling all chains together to make one long chain link of prayers. Hang the chain link prayers in your room and remember that a good witness shares Jesus where they are!



FAMILY SNACK

Week 4 - Galaxy Popcorn

3 oz box of Grape Jell-O

3 oz box of Blue Jell-O

½ Cup Sugar

¼ Cup Corn Syrup

4 Tbsp Butter

7 Cups of Plain White Popcorn (popped)

¼ Cup Wilton's Black Melting Discs

Edible Gold Stars

Silver Sugar

I found the recipe for Galaxy Popcorn on the [Well If She Can Do It](#) website.
Visit their site for the instructions on how to make it.



THANK YOU

Thank you for choosing Blast Off!

For more faith and family fun ideas, please visit my website:
www.vanessamyers.org.

I invite you to subscribe to my blog as well! All subscribers receive access to my Family Bible Study Resource Library. This library is filled with printable Bible resources for children and families. You will also receive one email a week filled with ideas to help equip your family for their faith journey.

If you are looking for a devotional to do with your family, I would love for you to check out my book, [Breakfast with Jesus: 100 Devotions for Kids About the Life of Jesus](#). This book is perfect for elementary age children. Each day includes a devotion, memory verse, prayer, and a Follow Me activity. Also included are some yummy breakfast recipes!

To purchase this book, visit Amazon. If you would like copies personalized and signed, send me an email: vanessamyers99@gmail.com and I will send you a copy!

