Parent Cue

First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

Week of August 10, 2025

The Big Idea

It's never too late to turn back to God and ask for His strength.

This Week's Story

This week we learned about the end of Samson's life from **Judges 16:15-31**. Samson made a big mistake by telling Delilah the secret to his God-given strength, which led to his hair being cut and his capture by the Philistines. But even at his lowest point, Samson prayed one last time for God to remember him and give him strength, and God answered his prayer.

Talk About It

Ask your child one of these questions on the car ride home or at dinner.

Pre-K to 1st Grade

Samson needed help when he was weak. Who can you ask for help when you need to be strong?

2nd to 3rd Grade

Samson's strength really came from God, not his hair. What is something only God can give you the strength to do?

4th to 5th Grade

Samson made a huge mistake, but God still listened to his final prayer. What does that tell us about second chances and forgiveness?

Try This At Home

The "Strength Chain"

Cut a piece of paper into strips. On each strip, have family members write down something they need God's strength for this week (e.g., "to be kind to my brother," "to do well on a test," "to be patient in traffic"). Link the strips together to make a paper chain and hang it somewhere you'll see it all week as a reminder to pray for each other and rely on God's strength.

Parent Cue

First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

Week of August 17, 2025

The Big Idea

When we are worried, Jesus comforts us and shows us the way to God.

This Week's Story

This week we learned from **John 14:1-14**. Jesus' friends were worried and scared, so He comforted them with a promise that He was going to prepare a special place for them in God's house. When they asked how to get there, Jesus explained that He is the only Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Talk About It

Ask your child one of these questions on the car ride home or at dinner.

Pre-K to 1st Grade

Jesus said he is the way to God. Can you show me with your finger the path from you to a picture of Jesus?

2nd to 3rd Grade

Jesus' friends were worried. What is something you can remember about Jesus when you feel worried?

4th to 5th Grade

Jesus said He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." What do you think it means for Jesus to be "the Truth"?

Try This At Home

"The Way" Signpost

Grab a piece of paper and draw a big arrow. Inside the arrow, write "JESUS IS THE WAY." Around the arrow, draw or write things you might worry about (like tests, being alone, or the dark). Hang the sign on the fridge as a reminder that no matter what worries pop up, Jesus is always the way through them.

Parent Cue

First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

Week of August 24, 2025

The Big Idea

Prayer is simply talking with God, and we can do it in many different ways.

This Week's Lesson

This week was a "Worship Workshop" all about prayer! We visited different stations to learn that we can pray for others (**1 Timothy 2:1**), confess our mistakes (**1 John 1:9**), and dedicate our gifts to God (**2 Corinthians 9:7**). We made a prayer chain, watched our "sins" disappear in water, and offered our talents to God.

Talk About It

Ask your child one of these questions on the car ride home or at dinner.

Pre-K to 1st Grade

At our "Gifts for God" station, we drew pictures of nice things we can do. What is one nice thing you want to do for God this week?

2nd to 3rd Grade

We saw our mistakes "disappear" in the water. What does that teach us about what God does when we say we're sorry?

4th to 5th Grade

We prayed for our community by making a prayer chain. Why is it important to pray for people other than just ourselves and our family?

Try This At Home

The Prayer Jar

Find an empty jar or cup. On small slips of paper, write down different types of prayers: a "thank you" prayer, a "sorry" prayer, a prayer for a friend, a prayer for a family member, and a prayer for our world. Each night at dinner, have someone pull a slip from the jar, and pray that prayer together as a family.

Parent Cue

First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

Week of August 31, 2025

The Big Idea

We build each other up with fun and then share that joy with others.

This Week's Lesson

This week was all about fellowship and mission! Based on **1 Thessalonians 5:11**, we learned that having fun together strengthens our church family. We put that joy into action by playing games and then making cards to encourage and "build up" others in our congregation.

Talk About It

Ask your child one of these questions on the car ride home or at dinner.

Pre-K to 1st Grade

Who is one person we could send a happy card to this week to make them smile?

2nd to 3rd Grade

What was your favorite game we played today? How does playing games together make us feel like a stronger family?

4th to 5th Grade

The verse says to "encourage one another." What's the difference between just being nice and actively *encouraging* someone?

Try This At Home

Family "Build-Up" Night

Pick one night this week to have a mini version of our lesson. Spend 15 minutes playing a favorite family card game or board game. Afterwards, take 5 minutes to have everyone write one encouraging note—to another family member, a neighbor, or a friend—and deliver it the next day.

Parent Cue

First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

Week of September 7, 2025

The Big Idea

When we are worried, Jesus comforts us and shows us the way to God.

This Week's Story

This week we learned from **John 14:1-14**. Jesus' friends were worried and scared, so He comforted them with a promise that He was going to prepare a special place for them in God's house. When they asked how to get there, Jesus explained that He is the only Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Talk About It

Ask your child one of these questions on the car ride home or at dinner.

Pre-K to 1st Grade

Jesus said he is the way to God. If we were playing "Follow the Leader," why is it important to follow Jesus?

2nd to 3rd Grade

Jesus' friends were worried. What is something you can remember about Jesus when you feel worried?

4th to 5th Grade

Jesus said He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." What do you think it means for Jesus to be "the Truth"?

Try This At Home

Trust Your Guide

Have one family member close their eyes. The rest of the family must give them simple, clear directions to walk from one side of a room to the other without bumping into anything. Talk about how it felt to trust the voices guiding you. That's what it's like to trust Jesus to be our guide through life.

Parent Cue

First Presbyterian Church Sarasota

Week of September 14, 2025

The Big Idea

Following Jesus is the most important decision we'll ever make, so we have to put Him first above everything else.

This Week's Story

Today we learned from **Luke 14:25-33**, where Jesus taught a large crowd that following Him is a serious decision. He used two stories—one about a man building a tower and another about a king going to war—to show that we must "count the cost" first. This means understanding that choosing Jesus means making Him the number one priority in our lives.

Talk About It

Ask your child one of these questions on the car ride home or at dinner.

Pre-K to 1st Grade

If you were building a big tower, would you want to make sure you had enough blocks first? Why is it important to be ready before you start something big?

2nd to 3rd Grade

Jesus wants to be the most important part of our lives. What is one way you can show Jesus He is #1 in your heart this week?

4th to 5th Grade

Jesus said we have to "carry our cross." What do you think that means for a kid your age at school or with friends?

Try This At Home

The "First Things First" Jar

Find a clear jar. Give everyone a handful of small items (like pebbles or beads) and one larger, unique item (like a ping pong ball). Try to put the small items in first, then the big one—it might not fit! Now, empty the jar and put the big item in FIRST. The smaller items will now fit around it. Explain that the big ball is Jesus—when we put Him first, everything else in our lives fits into place.