HEY, FAMILIES!

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.

(Psalm 145:3)

BIG QUESTION:

Who is greater than everything? God!



DEVOTIONAL: GOD IS GREATER THAN ANYTHING

I was never good at math. I still am not good at math. But in math, there are three ways to measure something: less than, equal to and greater than. The largest number was always greater than all the others. I am rarely tempted to think that God is less than me, but I am often tempted to believe He is equal to me. As a parent, it's easy to move through life thinking, I've got this with God's help. But that's not the truth. God has us. He holds us, loves our kids more than we do and fights for us in ways we can't always see.

Israel often forgot the mercy and justice of our perfect God. With Elijah and the prophets of Baal, we see God as greater than every false hope. In Jonah's story, we see God's mercy far greater than Jonah's desire for judgment.

Our comfort and confidence begin with His greatness. What a kind reminder this month of how great our God is.

-Sam Luce childdiscipleship.com

ELIJAH AND MT. CARMEL *(1 Kings 18:16-45)* — Week 1



Elijah told King Ahab to gather the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The prophets of the fake god prayed and danced, but nothing happened. Elijah built an altar, drenched it with water, and prayed. God sent fire that burned up the sacrifice and everything around it, showing He is the one true God.

Brite Idea: The Lord is the one true God.

JONAH *(Jonah 1-4)* — Week 2



God called the prophet Jonah to warn Nineveh, but Jonah ran the other way. A storm came, and he was thrown into the sea, where a big fish swallowed him. Jonah prayed and admitted he was wrong, and the fish spit him out. He went to Nineveh, warned the people, and they believed God. Jonah was upset about God's grace, so God used a vine to teach him to care for others.

Brite Idea: God gives grace.

ISAIAH'S CALL *(Isaiah 6)* — Week 3



God gave Isaiah a vision of His heavenly temple. He saw God on His throne while angels cried, "Holy, holy, holy!" The temple shook, and smoke filled the room. Isaiah confessed his sin, and a seraph touched his lips with a coal to show he was forgiven. When God asked who He could send, Isaiah said, "Here I am! Send me!"

Brite Idea: God is holy.

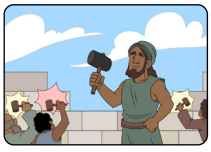
THE FIERY FURNACE *(Daniel 3)* — Week 4



When Babylon captured Israel, young men like Daniel and his friends were taken to serve the king. Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue and commanded everyone to worship it or face a fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused and stood firm. They were thrown into the fire, but a fourth figure was with them, protecting them from harm.

Brite Idea: Only God is worthy of worship.

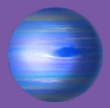
THE EXILES RETURN *(Ezra 1–3; 7; Nehemiah 1–2)* — Week 5



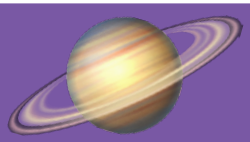
After 70 years in exile, King Cyrus allowed the Israelites to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Ezra led more people back and called them to turn from sin. Nehemiah returned to lead the rebuilding of the city walls. God used His people to restore the city.

Brite Idea: God works through His people.

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FAMILY CALENDAR



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY & SATURDAY
REMEMBER & RESPOND	*WONDER & DISCUSS*	*EXPLORE*	*REVIEW*	*PUT INTO PRACTICE*	*PREPARE AHEAD*
WEEK 1 The Lord is the one true God. What does this mean for me?	***READ TOGETHER:*** John 17:1–3 According to Jesus' prayer, how can a person find eternal life?	Have everyone close their eyes. Select one person to whisper, "One true God," and another to guess who whispered it.	***PSALM 145:3*** Why does God deserve more praise than anyone or anything else?	Each person say two things about themselves. One thing is true and one is not. Other family members guess what is real. Talk about how you know God is real.	Play "Go to Nineveh" Red Light, Green Light. Substitue the words "big fish" for "red light." ***READ TOGETHER:*** Jonah 1:1–5, 15, 17; 3:1–3 ***DISCUSS:*** What does this teach us about God?
WEEK 2 God gives grace. What does this mean for me?	***READ TOGETHER:*** Ephesians 2:4–8 Why do we need God's grace so much?	Wash the dishes together. While you do, talk about how God cleans our hearts of sin through grace.	***PSALM 145:3*** How does grace prove God's greatness?	Talk about someone who might need to hear that God gives grace through Jesus. Make a plan to share that message with the person.	Draw or paint your best depiction of a seraphim (special angel in Isaiah's vision). ***READ TOGETHER:*** Isaiah 6:1–8 ***DISCUSS:*** What does this teach us about God?
WEEK 3 God is holy. What does this mean for me?	***READ TOGETHER:*** 1 Peter 1:14–16 How should we respond to God's holiness?	Go on a walk together, look all around and share what you see. Talk about what it must have been like for Isaiah to see God.	***PSALM 145:3*** What does God's greatness reveal about ourselves?	Light a candle. Talk about the hot coal touching Isaiah's lips. Ask, "Why do we need God to make us holy?"	Play Freeze Dance! Everyone must freeze like a statue when the music stops. ***READ TOGETHER:*** Daniel 3:1–7, 16–20, 24–26 ***DISCUSS:*** What does this teach us about God?
WEEK 4 Only God is worthy of worship. What does this mean for me?	***READ TOGETHER:*** Exodus 20:1–3 What are some things we might be tempted to put before God?	Make "Reasons to Worship Placemats." Decorate cheap placemats for your family to use by writing or drawing what you're thankful for.	***PSALM 145:3*** How do you worship God for being so great?	Play your favorite worship songs and talk about why you love them so much. Sing along if you want!	Race each other to build the tallest cup pyramid. ***READ TOGETHER:*** Ezra 1:1–4 ***DISCUSS:*** What does this teach us about God?
WEEK 5 God works through His people. What does this mean for me?	***READ TOGETHER:*** 1 Peter 2:10–11 What gifts has God given each of you to serve Him with?	Lead your kids to make a simple sandwich by giving them one instruction at a time. Talk together about how God uses people to do His work.	***PSALM 145:3*** When do you need to remember how great God is?	Make a list of gifts and talents God has given your family. Beside each gift, write ways you can use that gift to serve God.	Make a Christmas ornament showing all the names in your family. ***READ TOGETHER:*** Matthew 1:17 ***DISCUSS:*** What does this teach us about God?

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