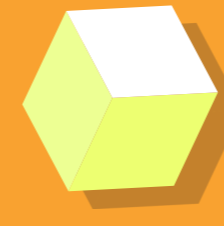




**nextgen  
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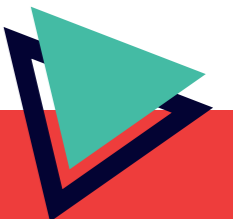
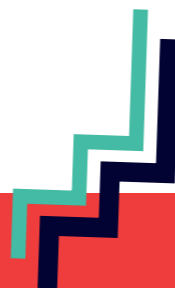
**ELEMENTARY**

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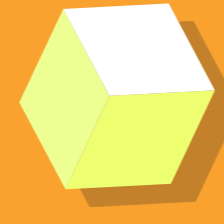
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# WHAT IS NEXTGEN FOLLOW?



## Why was NextGen Follow Created?

NextGen Follow for NextGen KIDS and YOUTH is a program designed for Grade 1 to Grade 8 children. We created this program for two main reasons:

1) We noticed a huge gap in children's knowledge of the Bible, who Jesus was, and their application of this knowledge.

### AND

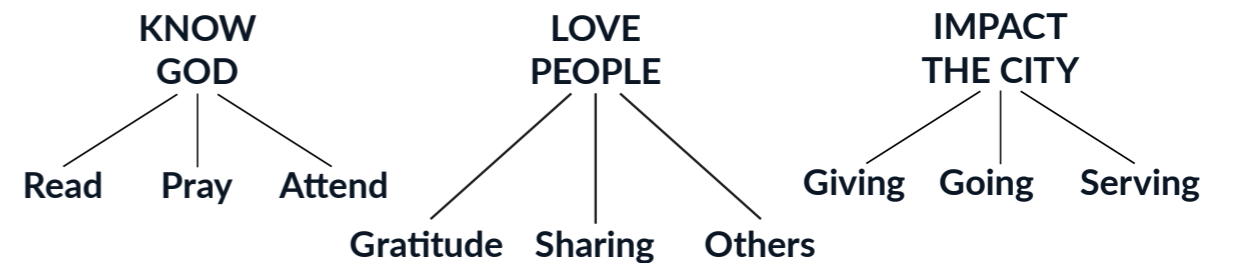
2) Attending church once or twice a week is not enough for our KIDS and YOUTH to truly understand what it means to be a follower of Christ.

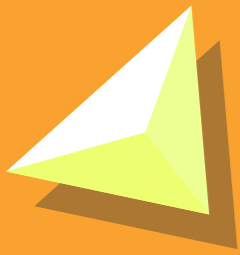
## What is NextGen Follow?

Here at OneChurch.to, our vision statement is to **KNOW GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, and IMPACT THE CITY.**

We took these values and translated them into tangible tasks that we call **ACHIEVABLES**. These achievables help our KIDS and YOUTH understand how they can strive to live like Jesus.

NextGen Follow is a 10 month program running from September to June. Throughout these 10 months we will be asking the NextGen KIDS and YOUTH to complete achievables in the three categories, **KNOW GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, and IMPACT THE CITY.**





## ELEMENTARY (Grade 1 - 5)

In this stage, your child is motivated by fun. They are looking to build friendships, and are asking themselves, "Can I do what is asked of me?" As we encourage their growth, we are partnering with you to help them trust God's character, and learn the true stories of the Bible. It is time for **US** to engage their interests!



**Faith**

Celebrating The Decision  
To Follow Christ



### KNOW

- Applying biblical lessons to everyday life
- Engaging in worship settings
- Foundational Bible stories



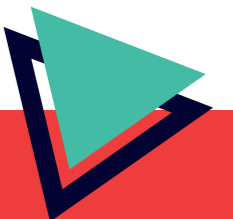
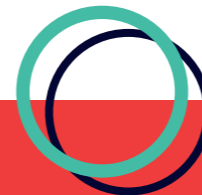
### LOVE

- Serving with the NextGen team
- Community outreach
- Creating a safe and fun environment



### IMPACT

- Local and global trips
- Bringing their faith, into their social settings
- Invitational social events



**Fun fact:**  
**Kindness makes you energetic**



# IMPORTANT DATES

**FOLLOW start date: Sept 11th, 2022**    **FOLLOW end date: June 26th, 2023**

### Check-In Dates

September 21 & 25  
October 26 & 30  
November 27 & 30  
December 25 & 28  
January 25 & 29  
February 22 & 26  
March 26 & 29  
April 26 & 30  
May 28 & 31  
June 25

### Important Dates

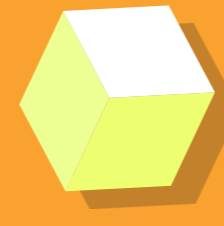
October 26 @6:30PM  
*In-person Packing Party*  
November 12 @10AM  
*Daytime Tea and Spelling Bee*  
February 25  
*Coldest Night of the Year*  
April 16 @6:30PM  
*Park Clean-Up*

Once a month on a Wednesday and Sunday, the NextGen team will be hosting evaluation days. On these days, children can submit their completed achievableables for grading.

### Follow us on social media for updates



Search "@OneChurch.to\_KIDS"



# ACHIEVABLES/AWARDS

As we journey with our children throughout the year, we want them to feel recognized, fulfilled and special by celebrating their achievements as they complete their Follow Plan. Because of this, we are introducing a star award system...

At the beginning of the NextGen Follow program, all children who sign up will receive a **GOLD STAR** with their photo and name. Each month, their handbooks will be reviewed and marked by a NextGen Ministry Staff. If the month's challenge is completed, they will maintain their **GOLD STAR** ranking. If not, their ranking will be changed to a **SILVER STAR**. If in the following month, the student completed the requirement, they will then be upgraded back to a **GOLD STAR**. If not, their ranking will be changed to a **BRONZE STAR**.



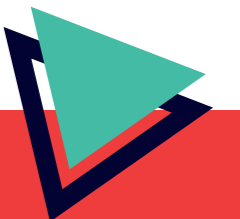
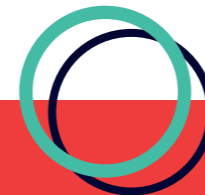
**GOLD STAR:**  
Completes Month Challenge



**SILVER STAR:**  
Did not complete the month prior, but still has a chance to go back to **GOLD STAR** ranking by completing the following month.



**BRONZE STAR:**  
Did not complete two months prior. Has a chance to go back to **SILVER STAR** ranking by completing the following month and if they complete the next following month's challenge they can earn their **GOLD STAR**.





## September - Know God



### **KNOW GOD | Bible Plan**

Reading scripture is an essential way for all of us to learn, understand and grow closer to Jesus. This month we are asking YOU and YOUR FAMILY to read this Bible plan along with us. Over the next three weeks, we have created a specific plan to read through. We are asking you to complete the plan on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

If writing is a challenge, you can always ask a parent to help you complete these devotionals.

The standard format for each of these weeks will be—

**Read This** → A passage from scripture.

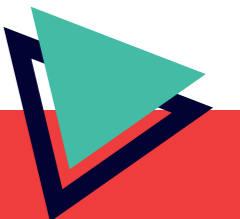
**Think About This** → The main lesson we can learn from this passage.

**Answer This** → Questions to help you relate to the lesson more personally.

**Try This** → How you can grow your faith through this lesson.

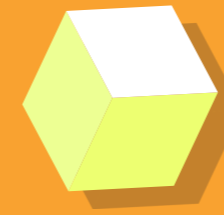
**Pray This** → An example of a prayer inspired by this lesson.

**EVALUATION:** By the end of the month a leader will check that each day has been signed off by a parent or guardian and that all reflection questions have been answered.





# Week 1 - Monday



# Week 1 - Monday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Matthew 7:24-27

“So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on Rock. But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand. The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash.”

### Think About This!

Sometimes when we look at the world or even in our own lives we can see something similar: the rain coming down, the water rising, and the wind blowing; this is what Jesus was talking about. Jesus says we have the choice to be wise or foolish; to build our house on the sand or the rock. For example: Jesus is teaching his friends that there is a wise and foolish way to build our lives. Wise people build their lives on the ROCK - that means they build their lives on God and the Bible. Did you know that God’s opinion of us should matter more than what other people think? Sometimes that is hard - especially when we want other people to like us. Sometimes we can be tempted to do something - even when we know that God doesn’t want us to do it - because we want other people to think we are cool. When we choose to impress other people rather than obey God, that is like building our house on the sand. It’s a foolish way to live and eventually, our lives begin to fall apart like the house built on the sand. Things get messy and tangled up when we care more about what others think about us than what God thinks. If you’re feeling that what you care the most about, or what gives you life has been taken away from you, that’s okay! Jesus loves you so much and wants to show you that the greatest purpose and the greatest joy in your life come from following Him. When you choose to find your purpose in God, our Rock, there is nothing that can shake you!

### Answer this!

1) What do you think is one of your God-given purposes?

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2) What is something you can trust God with?

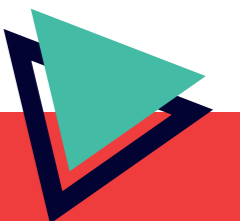
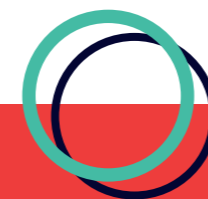
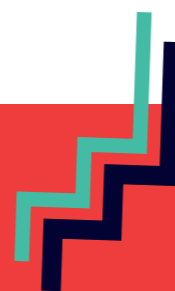
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### Try This!

Ask God to help you trust him more!

### Pray This!

“Dear God, thank you that I can always trust You even when my world seems crazy. Even though I can’t do some things that I really like to do, I trust that my purpose comes from You and nothing else! Thank You for being my Rock, Amen!”



**Fun fact:**  
**There are over 1,600 parks in Toronto.**



# Week 1 - Wednesday



# Week 1 - Wednesday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Matthew 20:26-28

“Don’t be like that. Instead, anyone who wants to be important among you must be your servant. And anyone who wants to be first must be your last. Be like the Son of Man. He did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free.”

### Think About This!

Jesus told His disciples that He did not come to be served by others, but to serve others! What if we become the ones that serve others around us this week just like Jesus? What if instead of only cleaning our area we help clean another area in our home? Or maybe at school, we could find ways to serve our teachers or other students in our class.

Jesus knew His ultimate purpose was to serve. We can choose to serve others just like Jesus!

### Answer This!

1) Why do you think Jesus wants us to serve others?

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2) List some ways we can serve others this week.

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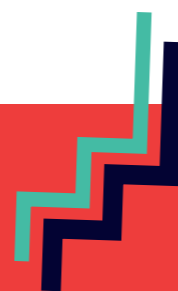
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### Try This!

Today, ask your parents how you can serve them this week!

### Pray This!

“Dear God, thank You that You sent Jesus to serve and not to be served. Help me to serve others just like Jesus served me, by giving His life to set me free. Amen!”

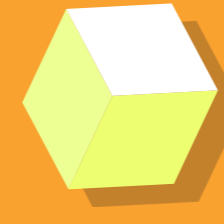


**Fun fact:**  
**The Toronto Zoo has 16 000 animals**





## Week 1 - Friday



## Week 1 - Friday



COMPLETED

### Read This: John 13:34-35

"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."

### Think About This!

If we told you to love people in the same way Jesus loves you, would you think that is a small or big job? However, you answered, you're right! Loving other people the way Jesus loves us is a big job because that is how the rest of the world knows we are following Him! Loving others doesn't have to be a big show, because most of the time it happens in small ways. We show our love to others by including them when they are all alone, by serving them with small acts of kindness, by building them up with our words and so much more (Can you think of some ways?) So, right now I want you to pause and think about how we can love those around us in the same way Jesus loves us!

### Answer This!

1) When you think of loving others, do you think it feels more like a big job or a small job, and why?

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2) List some ways that we can love others.

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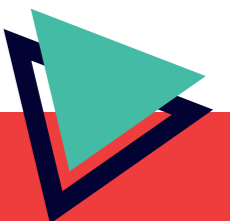
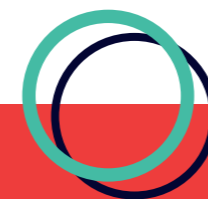
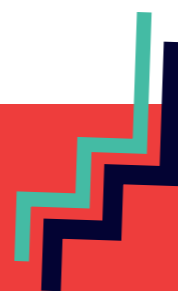
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### Try This!

Think of one act of love you can do for someone in your house today. Then go do it!

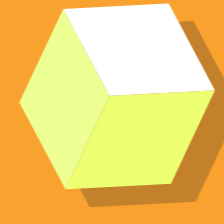
### Pray This!

"Dear God, thank You so much for all the ways You love us. Help me to think about how I can love those around me, so they would know how much You love them. Amen!"





## Week 2 - Monday



## Week 2 - Monday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Isaiah 41:13

"I am the LORD your God. I say to you, 'Do not be afraid. I will help you.'"

### Think About This!

We all feel scared sometimes. Maybe you're scared of thunderstorms or dogs barking, or you want to try something new, and you're worried you may fail. Sometimes life can feel scary. We want those scary things to go away, don't we?

Being brave is feeling scared but taking action anyways. Being brave looks like still being scared but saying to yourself, "okay, but the truth is, God made me on purpose and for a purpose. I can do this. I have everything I need to be brave!"

### Answer This!

1) What is something you are afraid of sometimes?

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2) What is one way you can push through your fear and be brave?

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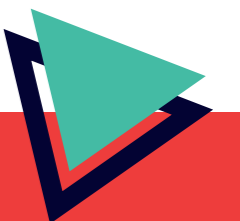
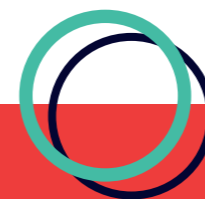
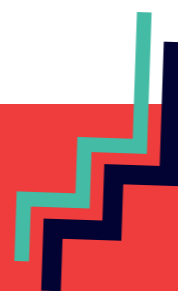
### Try This!

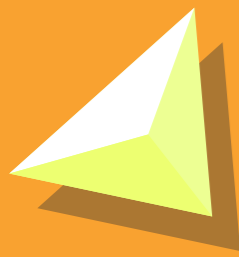
Today's Bible reading is a short one but powerful! This is a great verse to memorize and say whenever you're feeling a little scared or fearful.

"I am the LORD your God. I say to you, 'Do not be afraid. I will help you.'" - Isaiah 41:13

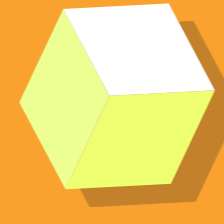
### Pray This!

"God, sometimes I can feel scared. I pray that when that I do feel scared, You remind me that You are always with me and I can be brave. Amen!"





## Week 2 - Wednesday



## Week 2 - Wednesday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Acts 4:8-13 [paraphrased]

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the important Rulers, "We are being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man. Do you want to know how he was healed? This man was healed by the powerful name of Jesus. Jesus is the only one that can heal and save - no one else can do that!"

The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They realized that these men had been with Jesus"

### Think About This!

It's always cool to see our friends, your parents, or a favourite grown-up doing something brave. When we see bravery out in the world, it inspires us, doesn't it? I think that's why we not only need to share our bravery, but we need to look for it as well.

### Answer This!

1) What does it mean to you to be brave?

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2) Who is someone in your life that shows bravery?

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3) What is one area in my life where I want to become braver?

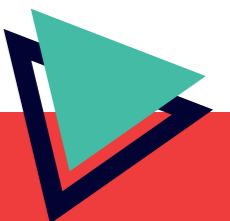
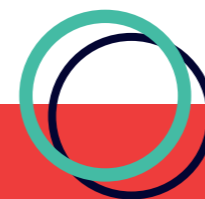
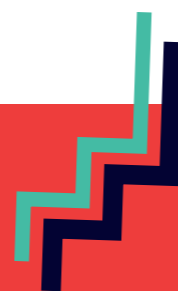
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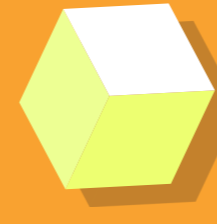
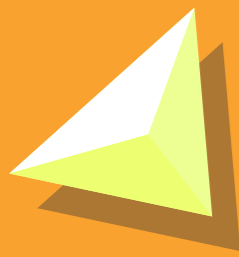
### Try This!

Look for someone in your life doing something brave and ask them how they became brave. It doesn't have to be big; it can be something pretty normal because sometimes normal is brave too.

### Pray This!

"Thank you Jesus for putting brave people in my life. Please help me to be brave and help me to remember that You are always with me!"



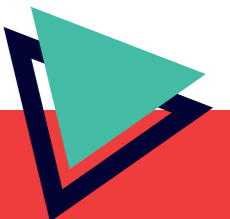
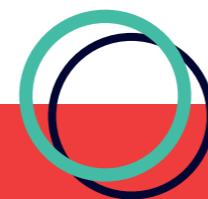
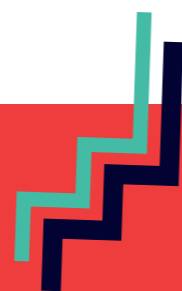


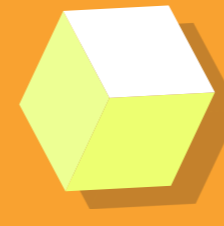
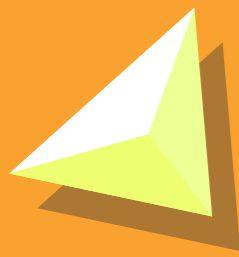
**Read This: 1 Samuel 17:32-51 NIRV [adapted]**

David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him." Saul replied, "You aren't able to go out there and fight that Philistine. You are too young. He's been a warrior ever since he was a boy." But David said to Saul, "I've been taking care of my father's sheep. Sometimes a lion or a bear would come and carry off a sheep from the flock. Then I would go after it and hit it. I would save the sheep it was carrying in its mouth. If it turned around to attack me, I would grab its hair. I would strike it down and kill it. In fact, I've killed both a lion and a bear. I'll do the same thing to this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go. And may the Lord be with you." Then Saul dressed David in his own coat of armour. He walked around for a while in all that armour because he wasn't used to it. "I can't go out there in all this armour," he said to Saul. "I'm not used to it." So he took it off. Then David picked up his wooden staff. He went down to a stream and chose five smooth stones. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag. Then he took his sling in his hand and approached Goliath.

At that same time, the Goliath kept coming closer to David. Goliath looked David over. He saw how young he was. And he hated him. He said to David, "Why are you coming at me with sticks? Do you think I'm only a dog?" Goliath cursed David in the name of his gods. "Come over here," he said. "I'll feed your body to the birds and wild animals!"

[Continued on next page]





**Read This: 1 Samuel 17:32-51 NIRV [adapted]**

David said to Goliath, "You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against. This day the Lord will give me the victory over you. I'll strike you down. The Lord doesn't rescue people by using a sword or a spear. And everyone here will know it." As Goliath moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet him. He reached into his bag. He took out a stone. He put it in his sling. He slung it at Goliath. The stone hit him on the forehead. He fell to the ground on his face. David won the fight against Goliath with a sling and a stone..

**Think About This!**

David would never have defeated Goliath had he not taken that first step onto the battlefield. Sometimes it's so hard for us to take that first step onto the soccer field, onto the stage or into the water. It takes a special combination of bravery and confidence. We don't always have confidence in ourselves, but like David, we can find confidence in God. The moment you take that first step, little seeds of courage — planted in your heart through God's promises — begin to sprout and grow.

**Answer This!**

1) Why is it sometimes hard for you to start things?

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2) What brave thing are you working towards?

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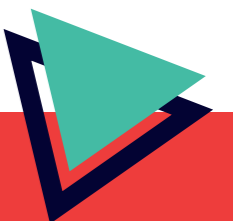
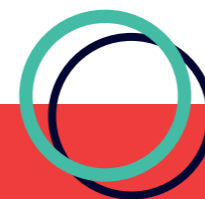
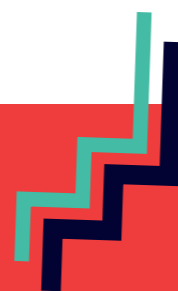
3) What promises of God help you to be brave? (ie. God promised He would never leave you alone)

**Try This!**

Take time to write about what you are working towards to become brave. Share it with a trusted person and ask them to help you work towards it!

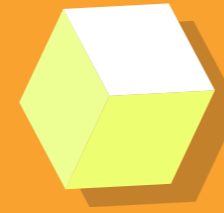
**Pray This!**

"There are things in my life I am working towards getting braver at. God, please help me to be brave and work towards my goal. Amen!"





# Week 3 - Monday



# Week 3 - Monday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Psalm 31:14

“But I trust in you, Lord. I say, “You are my God.”

### Think About This!

Imagine trying new food, giving a speech in front of your class, or standing up for someone who is getting bullied. Sometimes, those things can make people feel afraid. Other people may feel afraid of being alone in the dark, or creepy crawly bugs. No matter what you're afraid of, it never feels good inside. It can feel pretty bad, actually. Have you ever thought of being afraid as a good thing? It can be when it teaches you to trust God!

God is your God. You can trust Him. If you feel afraid, pray to Him. Tell God what you're afraid of. He is with you, He will help you, and He will give you courage when you need it most.

### Answer This!

1) What thoughts and feelings go through your mind when you're afraid of something?

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2) Why is it helpful to trust God when you're feeling afraid?

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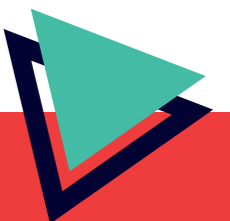
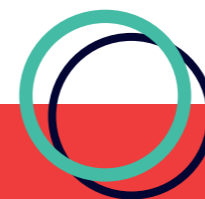
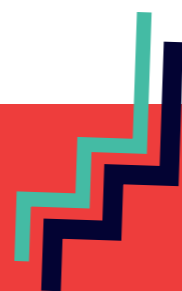
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### Try This!

If you fear something, say out loud, “I can trust God,” and remind yourself that God is always with you.

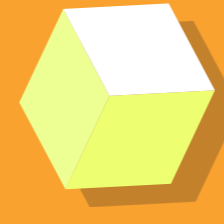
### Pray This!

“Thank you, God, for always being there for me. Even when I fear, I know that I can trust You with everything! Amen.”





## Week 3 - Wednesday



## Week 3 - Wednesday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Romans 5:3-5

"We are full of joy even when we suffer. We know that our suffering gives us the strength to go on. The strength to go on produces character. Character produces hope. And hope will never bring us shame. That's because God's love has been poured into our hearts. This happened through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

### Think About This!

Have you ever had to do something difficult - something you didn't want to do? Sometimes in life, we have to walk through tough circumstances. It could be a problem with a friend, maybe a family member is sick, moving away from your friends or maybe starting in a new grade or class. All of these things can be difficult, but did you know that difficult things can help us to grow? It is true! The Bible teaches us that when we go through difficult moments, God will help us through them. As He helps us go through them, He can also help us to grow. That's why the Bible says we can have joy even when things are tough. Have you ever seen a stack of dominoes in a line? One of them gets tipped over and it causes them all to fall. Just like dominoes falling, tough times start a time of growth in us.

### Answer This!

1) Name a difficult time that you grew through. (Example: Maybe you moved to a new school and you were really scared but you ended up loving your new school more than your old one)

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2) Hope is so important to help us through tough times. What do you think hope is? How can you grow more hope?

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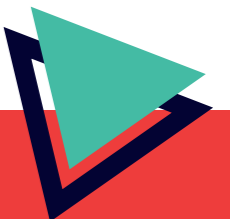
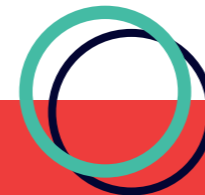
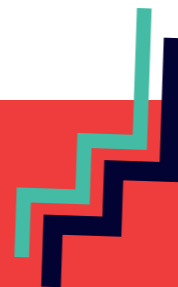
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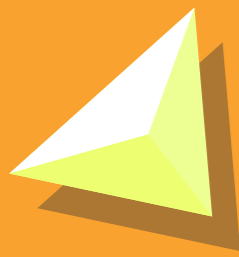
### Try This!

Today, I want you to read this passage with your parent or guardian. Then, ask them about a time in their life when they had hope even though they were in a hard situation.

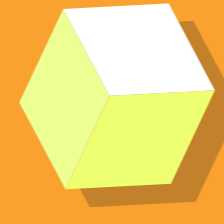
### Pray This!

"Dear God, thank You that You will never be taken away from me. You are my hope, and that brings me so much joy in the middle of a hard time. Thank You Jesus for loving me more than I will ever know. Amen!"





## Week 3 - Friday



## Week 3 - Friday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Romans 8:28

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. He appointed them to be saved in keeping with his purpose."

### Think About This!

Things change. Some changes feel exciting: you grow taller, you get a new sibling, or you start a new hobby that you love! Some changes feel harder: your friend moves away, or you have to change schools. God doesn't change. He is with you. He loves you. He celebrates with you when changes feel good and comforts you when changes feel bad. He always brings good out of every situation when we trust in Jesus and follow Him.

### Answer This!

1) What are some changes you feel excited about? What are some changes you feel uncomfortable or upset about?

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2) How is it helpful to remember God never, ever changes?

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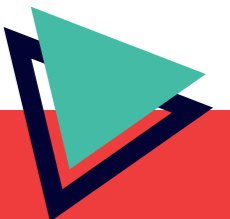
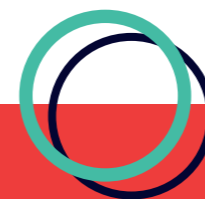
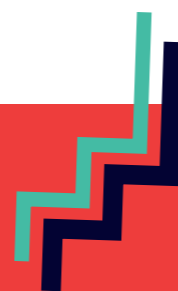
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### Try This!

Draw a picture of something true about God that never, ever changes. Examples: God is powerful, He is with me, He listens to me, He loves me, He is in control, etc. Put it up somewhere so that when you look at it you can always remember the truth that God never changes!

### Pray This!

"Thank you, God, for never changing. Some things in my life change a lot and that can sometimes feel scary. Help me to remember that you never change. Amen!"







## October - Love People



### LOVE PEOPLE | Sharing

Sharing is a great way for us to show people how we love them. And the most important thing we could share is Jesus! Every year leading up to Christmas, we are given the opportunity to fill up a shoebox for a child to remind them that they are loved. This is a great opportunity for you to share with friends. It's so important to give back to the community.

We believe by asking YOU to participate you'll learn;

- 1) To think about others
- 2) Understand your privilege
- 3) Be a part of something bigger than KIDS Church

**EVALUATION:** The way to achieve this task is to:

**Option A:** Bring in two completed boxes (one filled by you and one filled by a friend).

**Option B:** Attend our packing party on October 26th at 6:30 PM.

**Option C:** Host your own packing party before the end of the month



### Memorize This! | Galatians 5:22-23

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.



**IMPACT THE CITY | Giving (Day Time Tea and Spelling Bee)**

Part of impacting our city is through serving people from all generations. One of the best ways to do that is to connect with our seniors here at Onechurch.To. This month, we will be hosting an event for our seniors that YOU will be running. YOU will help serve tea and cookies AND have a chance to challenge some of our seniors in a spelling bee! You will get a chance to play a game with our seniors too!

**Event date/Time: November 12th at 10:00 am**

**EVALUATION:** In order to obtain this achievable, your attendance will be required at this event.

**ONLINE OPTION:** Ask your parents to help you find a Senior in your community that you can serve this month and send us a picture of you helping them.



**Memorize This! | Psalm 23**



### KNOW GOD | Prayer (Advent)

This year our church family will be participating in an advent journey together. On November 27th, you will be able to pick up your Advent Journals at our physical location. If you attend Kids Church online, no problem, the advent journal will be available online in PDF form. We are asking all of our students of One church.to to take part in this Advent season with your family and your church.

#### Nov 7- Pick up Advent Journals

Nov 27 - Dec 3

Dec 4 - Dec 10

Dec 11 - Dec 17

Dec 18th - 25th

**EVALUATION:** Prayer journal completion.



### Memorize This! | Ephesians 4:29

Don't let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.



## Nov. 27 - Dec. 3

Share with us what you are learning this week from our Church Family Advent Devotional



## Dec. 4 - Dec. 10

Share with us what you are learning this week from our Church Family Advent Devotional



COMPLETED

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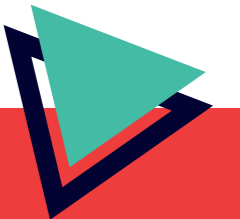
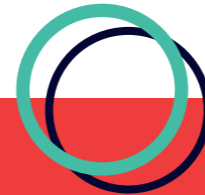
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**Fun fact:**  
**Toronto has over 8,000 restaurants**



## Dec. 11 - Dec. 17

Share with us what you are learning this week from our Church Family Advent Devotional



## Dec. 18 - Dec. 25

Share with us what you are learning this week from our Church Family Advent Devotional



COMPLETED

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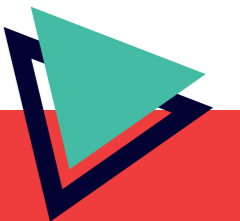
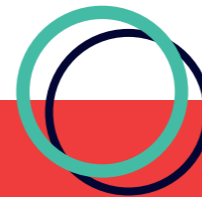
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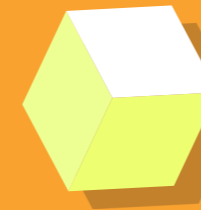


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### LOVE PEOPLE | Gratitude

Gratitude is something we should all practice. It is always easier to show gratitude when we think we might receive something in return. We want YOU to practice gratitude even if you get nothing in return. So, let's say THANK YOU to the people in our lives who deserve our gratitude.

We are asking YOU to write 5 thank you cards or a note to:

- A teacher
- A family member
- A caretaker
- A community leader
- YOUR CHOICE

**EVALUATION:** Cards need to be shown to a leader before the end of January to obtain this achievable

- Grades 1&2 students - please write 3 thank you cards
- Grades 3,4&5 students - please write 5 thank you cards.



### Memorize This! | Jeremiah 29:11



"I know the plans I have for you," announces the Lord. "I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come."



### IMPACT THE CITY | Going (Coldest Night of the Year)

Did you know that some people don't have a home in our city? "The Coldest Night of the Year" is a family-friendly, fundraising walk that supports local charity partners who provide essential care to people experiencing homelessness. We will join thousands of Canadians stepping outside the warmth and comfort of home to shed light on the issues of homelessness in our city.

On February 25th, 2023 we will be meeting up at the OneChurch.to's physical location [2885 Kennedy Road, Toronto, ON] to take part in this awareness walk.

**EVALUATION:** We are asking YOU to participate fully in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser by raising funds with your family and taking part in the walk OR hosting your own walk with your friends and family.



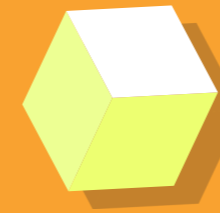
*\*Students will not be evaluated on the amount raised only on their participation.\**



### Memorize This! | Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight.





## March - Know God



### KNOW GOD | Read

Did you know that God used both men and women to do incredible things throughout the Bible? Did you also know that International Women's Day is on March 8? Because of this, we are going to be reading about some of these incredible women this month! If writing is a challenge, you can always ask a parent to help you complete these devotionals.

The standard format for each of these weeks will be—

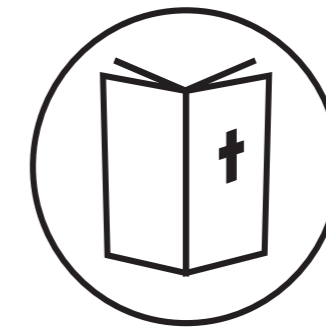
**Read This** → A passage from scripture.

**Think About This** → The main lesson we can learn from this passage.

**Answer This** → Questions to help you relate to the lesson more personally.

**Try This** → How you can grow your faith through this lesson.

**Pray This** → An example of a prayer inspired by this lesson.



**EVALUATION:** By the end of the month a leader will check that each day has been signed off by a parent or guardian and that all reflection questions have been answered.



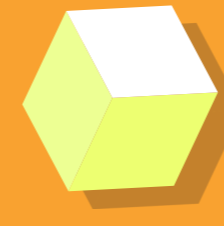
### Memorize This! | John 3:16

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.





# Week 1 - Monday



# Week 1 - Monday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Esther 2: 7-9 and 17-18 [adapted from NIRV]

“Esther was a very beautiful woman! When Esther’s mother and father had passed away, Mordecai, her older cousin, took her in as his own daughter. One day, word spread that the king was in search for a bride, many young women were brought down to Susa to find a wife for the king.

Now the king was attracted to Esther more than any of the other women, and she won his favour and approval. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen. The king gave a great banquet for Esther for all his nobles and officials to see. He made a holiday and gave out many gifts in her honour.”

### Think About This!

Esther had a hard life growing up. Her parents had died and she was sent to live with her uncle. Thankfully her uncle was a very nice man and loved Esther very much. Some of us have had hard times and setbacks growing up too; but do you know what’s awesome? Esther never let her hardships change her love for God.

### Answer This!

1) What difficult things are going on in your life right now?

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2) If you met Esther what are some things you would say to her to encourage her while she was going through these hard times?

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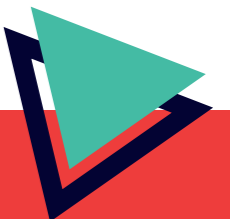
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### Try This!

Think about a person or friend in your life that might be going through a hard time. How can you encourage them today?

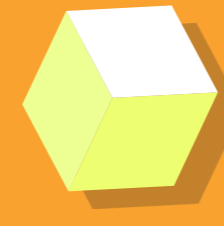
### Pray This!

“Dear Lord, sometimes there are things in our lives that are really difficult. Help me today and every day to not allow these difficulties to pull me away from You.”





# Week 1 - Wednesday



# Week 1 - Wednesday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Esther Ch. 3-4 [adapted from NIRV]

"In the land was an evil man named Haman. He was jealous of Mordecai (who was a Jew) and wanted to harm the Jewish people. Haman tricked the king into creating a law that forced all people to worship the king, instead of God. Haman knew that the Jewish people would not bow to down to anyone, but God. This made all the Jews very sad because if they didn't bow, the law said they would die. Mordecai went to his niece, who was now queen and asked her to go and beg the king for mercy. Esther knew that this would be dangerous but she told Mordecai, 'Go. Gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast (don't eat or drink anything) for three days. I will do the same. Then I'll go to the king. I'll do it even though it's dangerous and if I have to die, I'll die.' So Mordecai went away. He carried out all Esther's directions."

### Think About This!

Although the king loved Esther, he was VERY powerful and not always a nice man. At that time, the king was allowed to kill anyone who made him even a little mad. Esther was about to go to the King; there was a high chance that she might make him really mad by asking him to show kindness to the Jewish people (her people). Can you imagine how scary that might've been for Esther?

### Answer This!

1) Write about a time you were REALLY scared to do the right thing but you did it anyway. How did you feel before and after you did it?

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2) How would you encourage a friend or sibling to do the right thing even if they are scared?

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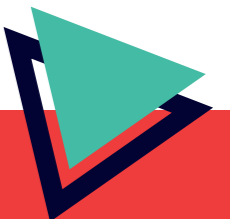
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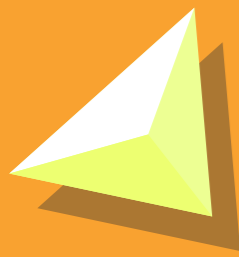
### Try This!

Doing the right thing sometimes takes a lot of courage and sometimes we need people to help us with our courage. Who are some people in your life that you can ask to help you be more courageous when you need to do the right thing?

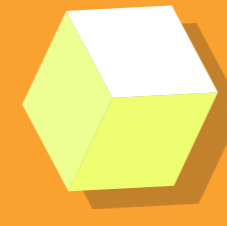
### Pray This!

"God, thank you for giving us all courage when we need it. Today we are asking You to put people into our lives that can help us have courage even when it's hard and even when you're scared."





# Week 1 - Friday



# Week 1 - Friday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Esther Ch. 6-7 [adapted from NIRV]

“On the third day, the king and evil Haman went to a meal that Queen Esther planned to change the king’s mind. The king asked, “What do you want, Queen Esther? I’ll give it to you. What do you want me to do for you? I’ll even give you up to half of my kingdom.”

Then Queen Esther answered, “Your Majesty, please spare my people. That’s all I ask! For my people will be destroyed because of the new law you were tricked into creating. The King asked Queen Esther, “Who is the man who has dared to trick me to pass such an evil law? And where is he?” Esther said, “The man hates us! He’s our enemy! He’s this evil Haman!”

Then Haman was terrified in front of the king and queen. The king’s guards arrested Haman and the King changed the evil law so that the Jewish people would be saved!”

### Think About This!

Esther did not accept the injustice that was happening to her people because of their ethnicity. She knew this was wrong. Esther decided to speak up even though it could cost her her life. Standing up for justice can sometimes cost us too. It can cost us, friends, our time, and comfort.

### Answer This!

1) Can you think of any things that are unfair in our world? Are there any injustices that you can think of that we should speak up for?

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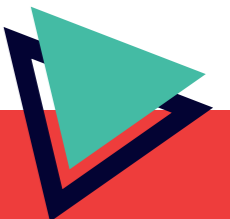
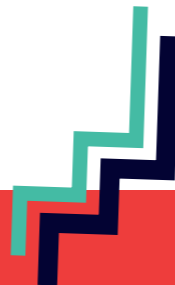
2) What can you do to help stand up against these injustices? Can you think of three ways you can help?

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### Pray This!

“Lord, Help me today and every day to be brave and stand up against injustice just like Esther. Esther knew it wasn’t right to treat people differently because of the way they looked. I know what the Bible says about loving everyone and I pray that You will help me to do that.”





## Week 2 - Monday



## Week 2 - Monday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Ruth Chapter 1 (adapted from NIRV)

Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law. Both Ruth and Naomi lost their husbands. It was common in those days for a young woman such as Ruth to move away from her husband's family and start a new family but Ruth wanted to care for her mother-in-law and would not leave Naomi alone. She said to her mother-in-law, "where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. The two women travelled together until they reached Bethlehem. Just in time for the beginning of harvesting barley.

### Think About This!

Both Ruth and Naomi were very sad. They both had lost their husbands and didn't have anywhere to go. Ruth could go back to her own family and live with her mom and dad but she didn't want to leave Naomi alone.

### Answer This!

1) Write about a time you felt alone. How did that feel? Did someone include you along the way? How did that feel?

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2) Even though we can sometimes feel alone, Jesus promises to never leave us. When you feel alone what are some ways you remember that Jesus is always there with you?

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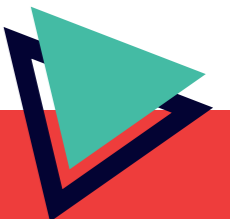
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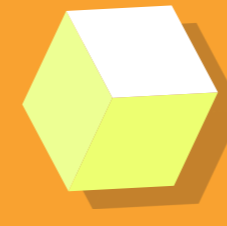
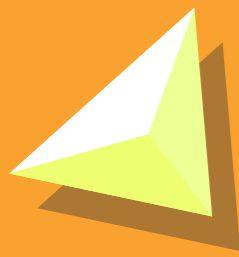
### Try This!

It's important for us to remember that there are times when we all feel a little lonely. If you notice that someone might be feeling lonely how can you be there for them just like Ruth was there for Naomi?

### Pray This!

"Dear God, Thank you for sending us your son Jesus who is always with us. Help me to remember Jesus's love and presence even when I feel really lonely. Amen."





**Read This: Ruth Chapter 2 (adapted from NIRV)**

“It was hard to find work in those days for women but Ruth said to Naomi, “I will go out to the fields and pick up the grain that has been left.” She worked behind those cutting and gathering the grain. As it turned out, she was working in a field that belonged to a man named Boaz. Later that day Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and asked one of his workers, “Who is that woman?” The man replied, “ her name is Ruth, she is Naomi’s daughter-in-law.” Boaz was kind to Ruth and told her she could stay and continue gathering grain as long as she wanted. When Ruth heard that, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why are you being so kind to me? Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about you. I’ve heard about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband died. I know that you left your father and mother. I know that you left your country. You came to live with people you didn’t know. May the Lord reward you for what you have done.”

**Think About This!**

A farmer like Boaz would normally have hundreds of workers on their farm but he noticed a woman (Ruth) working in his field who wasn’t being paid. When Boaz discovered the sacrifices that Ruth had made for her mother-in-law, Naomi, he wanted to honour her. He went above and beyond what was required to make sure Ruth and Naomi had the food they needed.

**Answer This!**

1) Boaz didn’t only feel bad for Ruth - he did something about it. Write about a time you felt bad about someone’s situation and did something about it.

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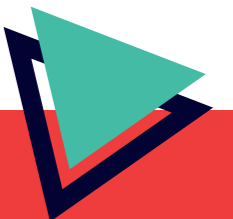
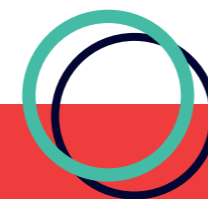
2) Write about a time you went above and beyond for a person that needed help.

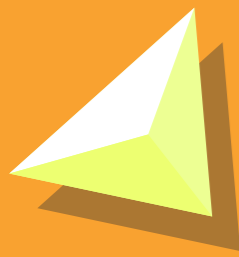
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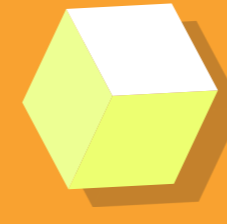
**Pray This!**

“Dear God, thank you for making me a person that can take action. Today I ask You to help me see the people in or around my life that might need my help. I also ask that You help me to do something that would be helpful to the other person, despite how I feel. Amen.”





## Week 2 - Friday



## Week 2 - Friday



COMPLETED

### Read This: Ruth Ch. 4 (adapted from NIRV)

So everyday Ruth went to Boaz's farm and gathered the grain that was left behind so she and Naomi could eat. Boaz continued to show a lot of kindness to Ruth. He would leave extra grain and barley for her and make sure she was always cared for. So Boaz married Ruth and had a son. Then Naomi took the child in her arms and took care of him. The woman living there said, "Naomi has a grandson!" They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse and Jesse was the father of King David.

### Answer This!

1) Ruth went through a really tough time but God helped her get through it! Have you been in a hard spot? Tell us how God got you through it!

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2) Naomi was a good friend to Ruth. What are some ways you can be a good friend to someone in need?

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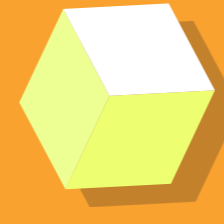
### Try This!

Boaz married Ruth because of her kindness and the way she loved Naomi. Ruth wasn't Jewish and it wasn't normal for a man like Boaz who was Jewish to marry someone who was not. Boaz did it anyways and because he trusted God with who he was married, God blessed their family





## Week 3 - Monday



## Week 3 - Monday



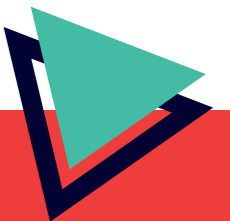
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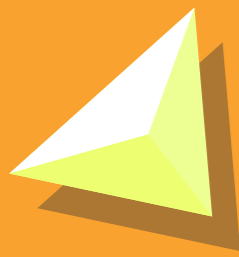
### Read This: Luke 1:26-56 (adapted from NIRV)

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph and was excited to be his wife. One night, while Mary was sleeping an angel came to her and said, "The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you." Mary was very scared because of his words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago." Mary was still scared but she said to the angel, "I will serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would."

### Think About This!

I can imagine how scared Mary felt. She thought she knew the plan for her life. She had a wonderful fiance and was so excited to get married. That all changed when the angel told Mary that she was going to be a mother to a very special son! I know if I was Mary I would be scared too. Mary does something very brave. She says to the angel: "I will do what Lord has asked me to do." Have you ever felt like you should do something even though it's scary? Just like Mary we always have a chance to say: "even though I'm scared I will trust in you, God."





## Week 3 - Wednesday



## Week 3 - Wednesday



COMPLETED

### Read This:

Joseph was from Bethlehem, the town of David because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born but there was nowhere for Mary to give birth. The only place she could stay with Joseph was a barn. She had her baby there and wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger.

### Think About This!

Imagine being given the news from an angel that you are going to have a very special baby? That would be really scary BUT Mary trusted that God will take care of her and her new baby. I'm sure she never imagined God would allow her baby to be born in a barn! After all, God told her she was going to give birth to the King of kings. Think about it: What if your parents told you you were getting a very special gift for Christmas (you thought it was a brand new Switch!) only to find out it was a new pair of PJs. Now because you expected the Switch and only got PJs you would be very disappointed. Now, what if when your parents said a special gift you thought of a new pencil and you got a cool new set of PJs! Now the PJs are much more exciting! It's all about expectations...

### Answer This!

1) Write about a time when you had high expectations and they didn't go as planned. How did you feel?

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2) Sometimes our parents, teachers, and even our pastors don't meet our expectations. How can you, like Mary, not get caught up on missed expectations but stay focused on Jesus?

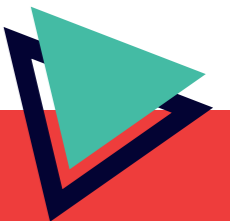
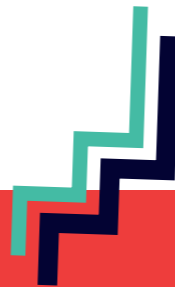
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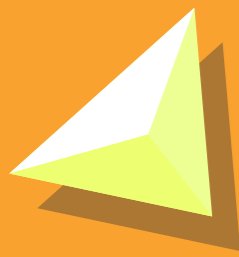
### Try This!

#### Pray This!

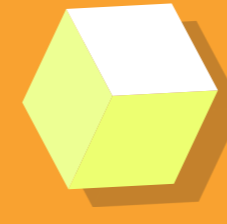
"Lord, It's hard when we expect something and it doesn't happen. Please help me to trust You and believe that You ALWAYS know what's best for me, Amen."







## Week 3 - Friday



## Week 3 - Friday



COMPLETED

### Read This:

After Jesus was born King Herod asked, "where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? King Herod was very threatened by Jesus' birth and knew he would grow up to be the King of kings. So the king gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem that were two years old and under. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

### Think About This!

Mary was so happy to have a healthy baby boy! Suddenly things changed and Mary and Joseph had to quickly move to save Jesus' life. We know change can be difficult, especially when that change forces us outside of our comfort zone.

### Answer This!

1) Write about a time when you were going through a big change. Was it easy for you or hard?

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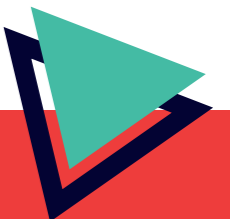
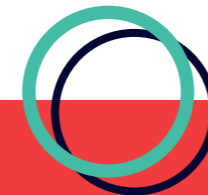
2) Write about a time when you were going through a big change. Was it easy for you or hard?

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### Pray This!

"Dear God, change is hard and trusting You through change is sometimes really difficult. Help me to know your peace through a change in my own life. Help me to also be kind to those who are experiencing change in their own lives."





# April - Love People



COMPLETED



## LOVE PEOPLE | Serving (Love Earth)

Here at OneChurch.to our mission is to Know God, Love People, and Impact the City. This month we're focusing on LOVE PEOPLE and one way we can love people is by loving those who will come after us by loving this earth. For this challenge, we are asking you to join us in a huge park clean-up. Join us on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 PM as we clean the surrounding community at 2885 Kennedy Rd. If you can't make it on that day, do not worry! We are all earth lovers here! You and your family can find a park in your own community to clean up.

**EVALUATION:** Attendance will be taken on April 16th, but if students are not able to make it, we ask that you send us a picture of YOU cleaning a park in your neighbourhood. You can email it here: [nextgen@onechurch.to](mailto:nextgen@onechurch.to) for evaluation before the end of the month. We ask that you also invite a friend to help you.



## Memorize This! | Philippians 4:13

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.



## May - Impact the City



COMPLETED



### IMPACT THE CITY | Giving (Love Local)

One way we can love locally is by giving back. There are things we are privileged to have and some things we have a lot of. Your challenge this month is to give away some of those extra clothes, toys, and items that you may not want anymore. Create a pile and donate it to a local donation spot.

If you need a suggestion on where you can drop off your donations, here are some ideas:

**The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church**  
3080 Birchmount Rd

**Value Village**  
North York, ON

**The Salvation Army Thrift Store**  
1225 Kennedy Rd Unit D1

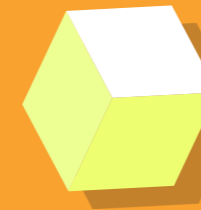
**EVALUATION:** Take a photo of yourself donating your clothes and send it to [nextgen@onechurch.to](mailto:nextgen@onechurch.to).



### Memorize This! | Ephesians 3:20



God is able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us.



## June - Know God



COMPLETED



### **KNOW GOD | Attend (Love First Nations)**

As we end our year, we want to partner with Love Army to raise money for First Nation moms. Our goal is to raise funds to help moms buy the supplies for their new babies! With that in mind, each of you will receive a regular-sized baby bottle to fill up with donations. Here are some ways you can go about this:

- You can ask friends and family for support
- You could raise money by hosting a yard sale
- You could sell lemonade in your neighbourhood
- You could do extra chores around the house, or mow someone's lawn

At our Onechurch.to physical location, we will have a MEGA baby bottle which we will collectively try to fill up! Our goal is to fill it up to the top and help support mothers at the First Nations Restoration Center. We will collect the donations from your baby bottles on **Sunday, June 18, 2023.**

On Sunday, June 18, we will have a party at the end of the year to celebrate your achievements and hold a last-chance donation drive. Be sure to invite your friends!

**EVALUATION:** Bring in a donation bottle.



### **Memorize This! | Roman 8:38-39**

I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can separate us. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

