

THE Family OF GOD



BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A FEW MOMENTS TO PREPARE.

USE THESE ICONS TO HELP YOU NAVIGATE THIS WEEK'S LESSON



TALK TOGETHER

Family conversations with God's Word.



MORE TO EXPLORE

Answers to kids' questions.



THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

Post it on the fridge. Use it all week.



COLORING PAGE

Keep little hands busy before, during and after your family conversation.

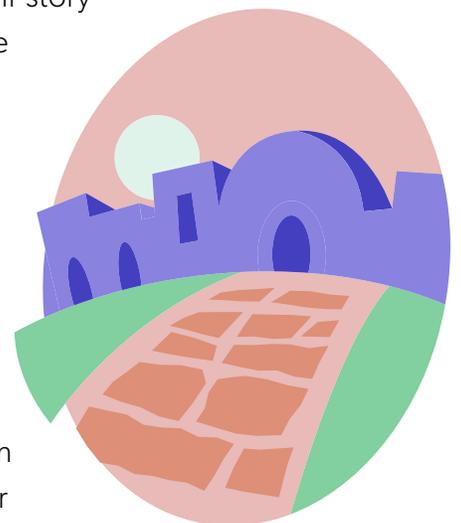
TALK TOGETHER

GOD'S FAMILY IS THE BIGGEST FAMILY THERE IS AND INCLUDES EVERYONE WHO FOLLOWS JESUS.

This family is found in local churches all across the globe and is filled with brothers and sisters who care about one another because of their shared faith in Jesus Christ.

The early Church was born in the middle of crowded Jerusalem streets filled with "God-fearing Jews" of every nation who came to celebrate Pentecost. One by one His disciples, followers of Jesus, began to go out and share the good news of salvation as Jesus instructed them in Matthew 28. Their story is told and recorded as history in the book of Acts.

During this time, the world was ruled by Rome. While news of Jesus was able to spread quickly throughout the empire because of willing servants, sturdy Roman roads and a common language, the family of God also faced persecution and was treated badly because their new faith was difficult for many to accept.

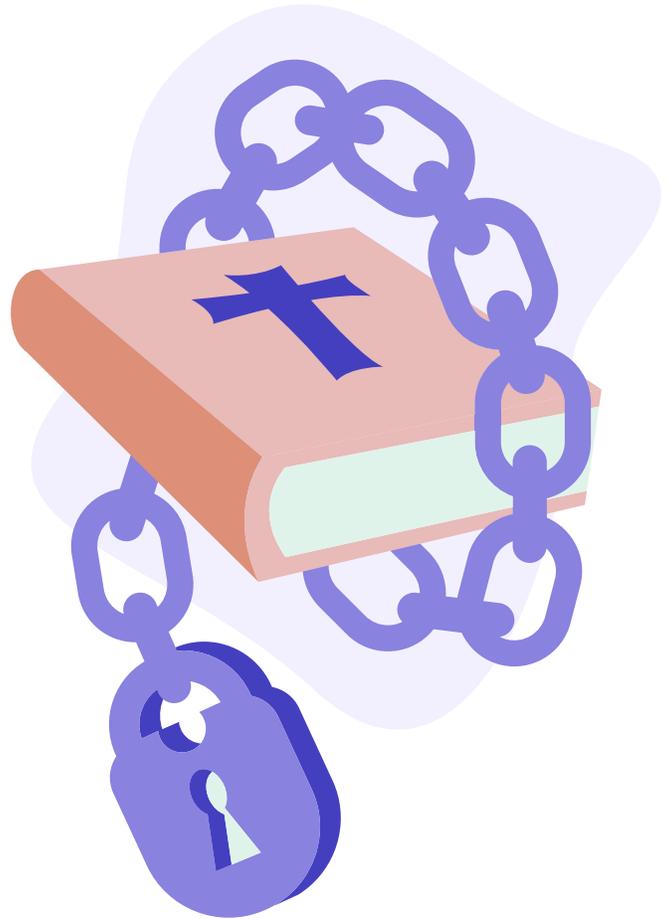


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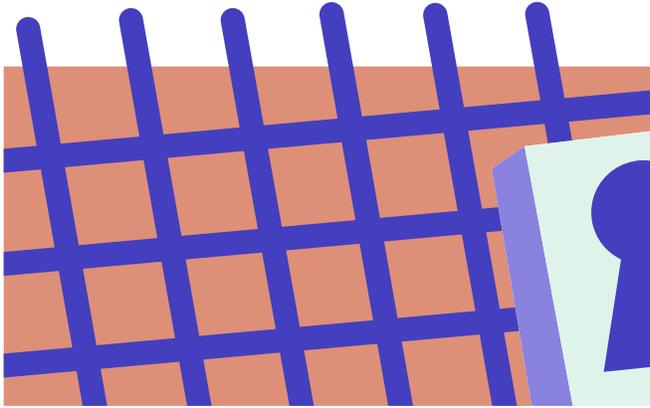
Many of the disciples spent time in jail, and some even gave their lives because they wouldn't stop telling people about Jesus. Their sacrifice allowed the message of Jesus to spread throughout the entire world, **passing from person to person*** and family to family, until one day someone told me and someone told you about the wonderful gift Jesus gave us when He offered us salvation.

I'm so glad we live in a country that allows us to follow Jesus and serve Him according to the Bible. But sadly, not every member of God's global family has the same opportunity that we do. Like believers in the early church, Christians throughout history have faced challenges when living out their faith in Jesus in different parts of the world. Today many countries have laws that make being a Christian illegal. Churches are forced to meet in secret, and sometimes Christians are put in jail just because they serve Jesus. Like believers in the New Testament, there are many brothers and sisters in God's family mistreated for their faith. We are all part of one body, the body of Christ. So when one member suffers in any part of the world, **"all suffer together." (1 Corinthians 12:26).**

I know this reality is very sad and can even feel a little scary, but I want to remind you that we can face sad and scary things with Jesus' help. God promises us in Hebrews 13:5, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* No matter what trouble we – or any other member of God's family – may face here on Earth, we will never face that trouble alone. **Jesus is always with us.**



CONT. →

TALK
TOGETHERWEEK OF JULY 03, 2022

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE IN PRISON, AS THOUGH IN PRISON WITH THEM, AND THOSE WHO ARE MISTREATED, SINCE YOU ALSO ARE IN THE BODY.

SO HOW DO WE HELP? The Bible tells us in the book of Hebrews how we can help our brothers and sisters facing persecution. **Can you help me find Hebrews chapter 13, verse 3? Hebrews is in the New Testament.**

HEBREWS 13:3

When we remember our brothers and sisters in prison as if we were in prison, **we pray for them*** with urgency. We remember them and pray like we are there with them. We trust God will bring them peace and comfort, and ask that He does powerful things through them, even though they are in prison! We can be confident He uses every situation for the good of those who love Him (**Romans 8:28**), even the really hard ones! We can be sure one day He will make all things right. **Revelation 21:4** says:

‘HE WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES, AND DEATH SHALL BE NO MORE, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE MOURNING, NOR CRYING, NOR PAIN ANYMORE, FOR THE FORMER THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY.’

REVELATION 21:4

END OF TALK TOGETHER

TALK TOGETHER * MORE TO EXPLORE ★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET @ COLORING PAGE

★ THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET

WEEK OF JULY 03, 2022

♥ MEMORIZE

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE IN PRISON, AS THOUGH IN PRISON WITH THEM, AND THOSE WHO ARE MISTREATED, SINCE YOU ALSO ARE IN THE BODY.

HEBREWS 13:3

Q: HOW SHOULD WE REMEMBER CHRISTIANS WHO ARE MISTREATED BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH?

A: AS THOUGH IN PRISON WITH THEM

READ



Read a missionary story or biography together. Note how the missionary sacrificed for Jesus, how the Lord was with them always, and how their lives blessed the world.



PRAY



GOD, THANK YOU THAT YOU NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US. PLEASE BE WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE IN PRISON BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH IN YOU. COMFORT THEM AND BRING THEM PEACE. WE ASK THAT YOU GRANT THEIR RELEASE AND USE THEIR LIVES FOR YOUR GLORY. AMEN.

SHARE



Talk to your kids about a time you shared your faith with someone. How did God help you?

RESEARCH



Ask your kids to research a Christian “hero of the faith” and share with your family how the hero trusted God’s plan, even under persecution. (William Tyndale, Jane Grey or Tertullian are great examples!)

REMEMBER

Using an online Bible resource, print out a list of “fear not” verses. Cut them into strips, fold them and place them in a special jar or bowl in a prominent place in your home. Select one every day and read it as a family.

ACT



Read the story of Paul and Silas’ miraculous rescue from prison in Acts 16:16-40 or from a children’s Bible storybook, then act out the story either live or with toys. Remind your kids that we can ALWAYS respond to the Lord in praise no matter our circumstances.



SCAN HERE TO LISTEN WHEREVER YOU ARE!

SING



Listen to this playlist throughout the series to praise God for The Family of God.


Talk About



MORE TO EXPLORE

WHAT IF GOD DOESN'T ANSWER OUR PRAYERS?

God ALWAYS answers our prayers, but sometimes He answers them differently than we expect. There will be times we pray and our brothers and sisters in prison will be miraculously released like Paul and Silas were in the New Testament. Other times they may not. No matter how God chooses to answer our prayers, we can trust He is good, that His promises are true and that He works EVERYTHING out for our good.

IS GOD IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT?

It can be tempting to put our trust in the leaders of our country for their ability to keep us safe and make good rules for us to live by. But these leaders – such as mayors, state governors, senators and representatives, even the President – only hold positions of authority because God has allowed them to. They are still imperfect people who need to live surrendered before God. For believers in Jesus, our true home is in heaven; and while we live here on Earth as citizens of different countries, our true allegiance belongs to God. (Philippians 3:20).

WHAT IF I'M AFRAID TO SHARE MY FAITH?

Everyone feels afraid sometimes, especially when we're asked to do something important like talk about Jesus with someone else. Feeling afraid is so common, so human. God tells us 365 times in His Word to not be afraid! Jesus talked about this specific fear in Luke 12:11-12 and tells us to not worry about what we should say to others about Him because the Holy Spirit will give us the words we need when we need them.

ADDITIONAL PASSAGES YOUR FAMILY CAN READ TOGETHER:

- Read **ROMANS 8:31-39** and be encouraged that nothing can separate us from God's love.
- **Galatians 6:1-10** encourages us to not become weary in doing good and to intentionally do good to the family of believers.
- **James 5:7-11** instructs believers to be patient in their suffering and to stand firm in the Lord.
- In **1 Peter 3:13-22** and **4:12-19**, Peter encourages believers to speak boldly for Jesus.



TALK TOGETHER



MORE TO EXPLORE

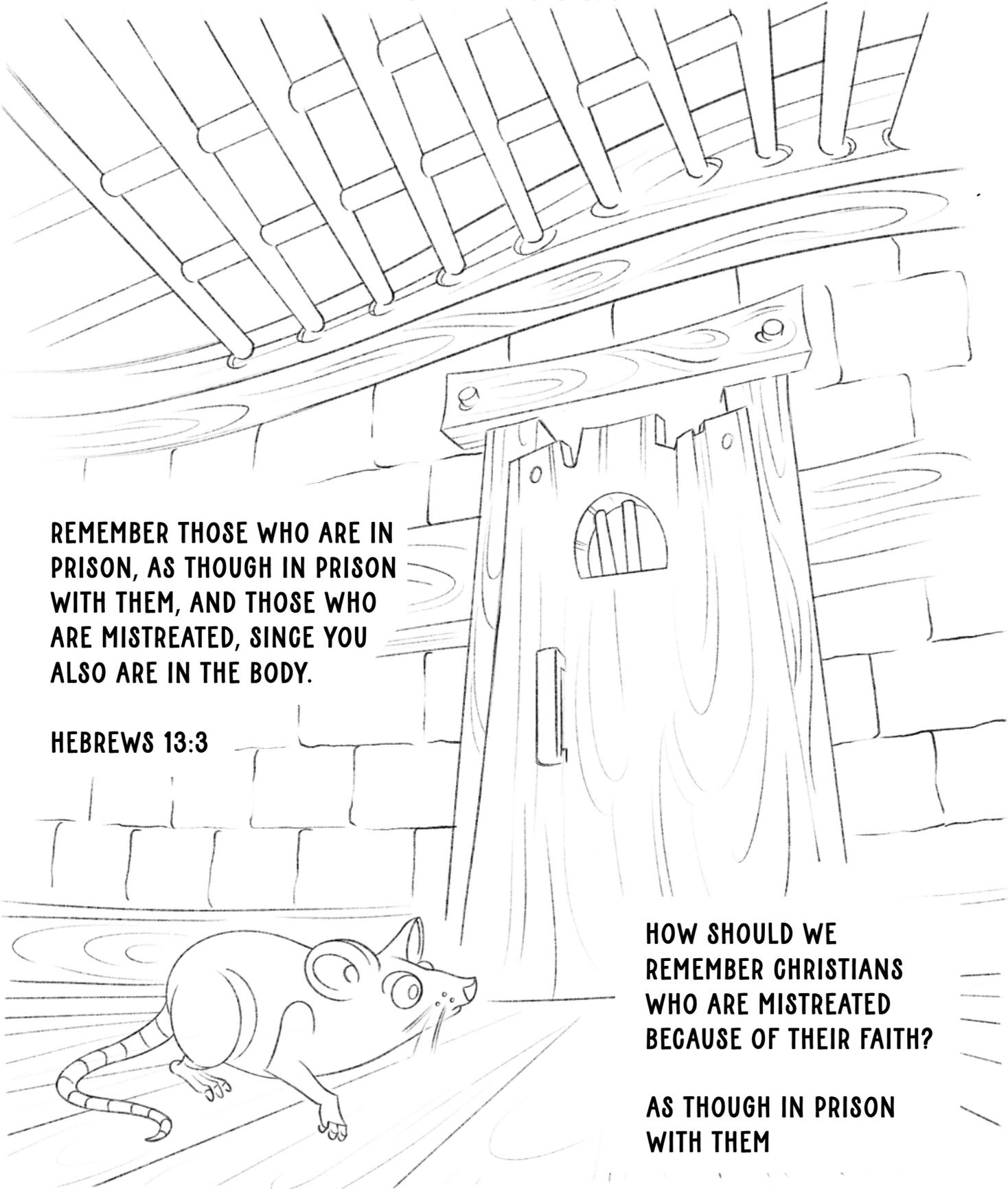


THRU-THE-WEEK SHEET



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Talk About



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HEBREWS 13:3

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AS THOUGH IN PRISON WITH THEM