

JAM TIME



Hey Students!

We can grow in our relationship with God as we study the Bible together! In this quarter, our theme is “God’s Covenants With People.” We will learn about how covenants were the foundations for God’s relationship with His people throughout the Bible. Staying committed to God can be challenging because we have so many distractions. We are constantly bombarded with things in the world that can easily become our gods. As you read the stories and scriptures this quarter think about the question: who are you following? God loves us, will we choose to follow God?

We will begin with our relationship with God as creator and promise keeper. Then see His relationship with Abraham and Sarah as their leader and Lord in Genesis. We will learn about God as the one who freed Israel from slavery and provided for them in the wilderness in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. We will see that God protects us and helps us despite our flaws in Joshua and Judges. Finally, we will learn

that God faithfully gives hope for a better future and uses people to build it in Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. We will see that God keeps His promises even when we don’t keep ours throughout this quarter. God is loyal to us even when we make mistakes.

This quarter highlights the message: we must choose to follow God! The way we live should reflect God’s Word. Our love for God and others can make change our world. Finally, we end the quarter with Job remembering that following God doesn’t mean life will be perfect. It means that even when we feel upset, we turn to God. When we make bad decisions, we turn back to God. And when we succeed, we thank God. As you go through this quarter, I pray you will be more open God to meeting you where you are. May you come to know God as your creator, liberator, leader, protector, provider, and friend as the people in the Bible did!

Grace & Peace,
UMI Editorial Team

LIT PICK

Only Light Can Do That: 60 Days of MLK - Devotions for Kids

Through Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s words and Bible verses, kids will discover that Dr. King's Christian faith was the foundation for his activism and that God calls us to stand up for justice and love. This children's devotional written by Lisa A. Crayton and illustrated by Camilla Ru will inspire the next generation with the passion of Dr. King, America's greatest Black leader, and equip them to make a difference for God, both today and tomorrow.

Through Dr. King's timeless words, kids will be challenged and inspired to

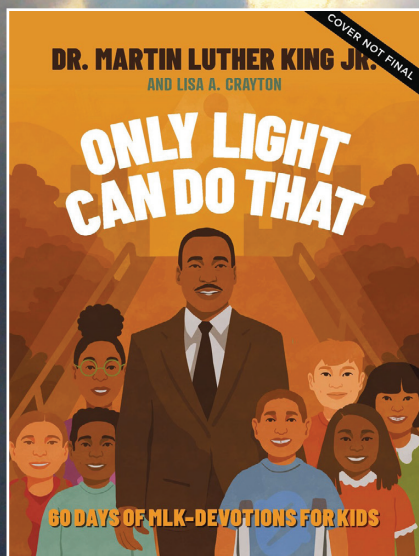
- "Drive out darkness" with light and love;
- Go to the Bible for the truth about evil, love, identity, and responsibility;
- Respect the Creator-given human dignity in everyone;
- Build relationships across boundaries and spread kindness in all communities; and
- Stand for God's truth about themselves and others.

This 60-day devotional for older children includes

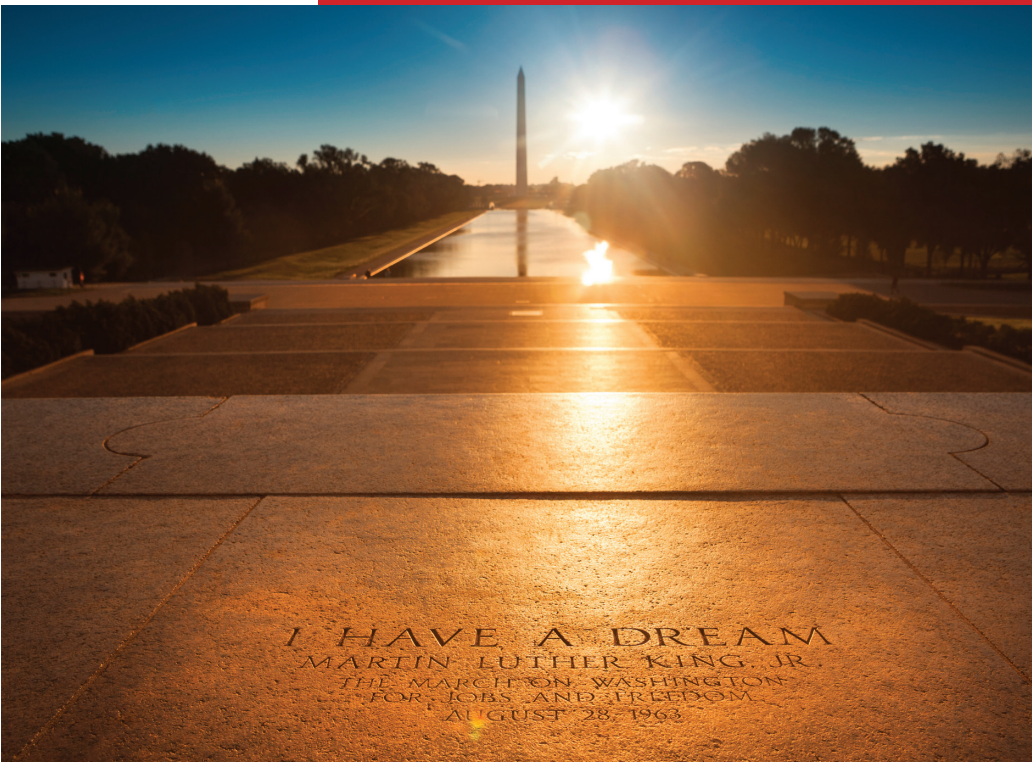
- A short biography of Dr. King that focuses on his belief in God's Word as the basis of his activism;
- 60 devotions written just for kids, each featuring Scripture, a quote from Dr. King, and a challenge to live out the truth;
- Inspiring stories of young participants of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s; and
- A presentation page for commemorating gifting occasions and a source list for further exploration.

Today's children are passionate about social justice and want to be change makers. This devotional shows kids that following Christ is an essential element of the fight for justice and empowers them to actively live out their faith.

"If we are to go forward, if we are to make this a better world in which to live, we've got to go back. . . . We've got to go back and rediscover the principle that there is a God behind the process."—Martin Luther King Jr.



He Gave His Life



I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Dr. King was the man," Lance whispered to himself as he read Dr. King's autobiography in the library with his younger sister, Pat. Lance had a homework assignment in his African-American history class and was doing some research on his favorite hero, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Lance, who is Dr. Mark King?" asked five-year-old Pat.

"No Pat, his name is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," laughed Lance. "He was the president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. He helped Black people get equal rights during the '50s and '60s."

Lance went on to tell his sister that Dr. King was also a preacher and a teacher of God's Word. He told her that Dr. King loved reading books, singing, riding a bicycle, and playing football and baseball as a young man. He also explained that Dr. King successfully taught and practiced nonviolence.

"You know what else?" Lance asked Pat. "Dr. King went to Morehouse College when he was only 15 years old!"

"I like him," smiled Pat. "Is he still alive?"

"No," Lance said. "He was shot and killed because someone didn't like the good things he said and did for Black people. He gave his life for God's people, and today he is known all around the world."

In My Heart

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing"
(Genesis 12:2, NIV).

WORD!

Genesis 12:1–9, NIV—The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. **2** "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." **4** So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. **5** He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. **6** Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. **8** From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. **9** Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

A Blessing for All Nations

How to Obey the Lord

- ### A. Three-fold Cord

1. Name three commands God gave Abram.

-
-

-
-

Sharing Good Fortune

Sacrifice

You are blessed to be a blessing!

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.

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Danger: No Swimming



“Come on you guys, let’s go for a late night swim!” Nate said to Patrice and Tony, as they were returning to the campgrounds. “They won’t miss us.”

“No, Nate! Let’s follow the rules,” Tony said, as Nate briskly walked toward the lake. They were at a special weekend for a “College Prep Boot Camp,” an event for high school juniors to give them all the information they needed to prepare for college. Representatives from colleges near and far were in attendance, including several historically Black colleges and universities. The camp also included time for recreational activities.

They had two rules to follow that week: 1) Be back in their cabins by 8 p.m. and 2) Do not swim in the prohibited areas. There was no need for Nate to break the rules.

“There’s a reason for the rules and I don’t want to ruin this weekend by breaking them,” Patrice said, as Nate continued to walk. “I’m going back to the main hall.”

Patrice and Tony were in a difficult position, but they wanted to do what was right. They headed back to the campground and hoped that Nate would change his mind and come back, too.

The sign clearly read, “Danger: No Swimming.” It was nighttime and the only light was coming from the moon. Nate dove into the murky waters anyway.

When Patrice and Tony made it back to camp, they told a counselor that they were worried about Nate being at the lake alone at night. Thankfully, the counselor arrived just in time to rescue Nate from being pulled under by the strong currents.

In My Heart

*“Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you”
(from Exodus 20:24, NIV).*

WORD!

Exodus 20:18–26, NIV—When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance **19** and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” **20** Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” **21** The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was. **22** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites this: ‘You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven: **23** Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold. **24** “‘Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you. **25** If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it. **26** And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.’”

SIDEBAR

Obeying God's Law

The last time Israel experienced a sign of thunder and lightning was during the plague of hail sent on Egypt (Exodus 9:23–26). The stipulations of the “book of the covenant” consisted largely of expansions and expositions of the Ten Commandments. The people of Israel requested a mediator to stand between them and God. This role was first fulfilled by Moses, later by priests, prophets, kings, and—ultimately—Jesus. Moses let the people of Israel know not to fear that God would kill them, but that He was testing them so they might be governed by reverence for the Lord.

How to Follow Rules

R—Remember that rules are created for our benefit.

U—Understand that you are capable of abiding by the rules.

L—Listen attentively to ensure that you understand the rules.

E—Encourage others to follow the rules.

S—Seek to obey God's commandments.

GOT IT!

A. God's Ways Work

Use WORD! to help you answer the following questions.

1. What did Moses say in verse 20?

2. The people were curious when they saw the thunder and lightning. True or False?

3. What did the Lord say to Moses in verse 22?

4. The Lord told Moses to make gods of silver and gold. True or False?

5. The Lord said to make an altar of earth or stones. True or False?

B. Rules Work

Form two groups. Group A will discuss what the world would be like without rules. Group B will discuss how having rules is important. After some time of discussion, share your key points with the other group.

JAM SESSION

Be Obedient to the Law

Without obedience to law, people live in chaos, hurting themselves, others, and their environment. *Where can people get a law that they will obey?* God delivered the commandments to the Israelites while showing divine and holy power. God tested them to persuade them to obey the laws of the covenant. In today's story, Nate willingly broke the rules for his own enjoyment, and it almost cost him his life. Thankfully, his friends followed the rules and were able to play a role in saving his life. Are there ways that you can rescue others from the potential consequences of breaking rules?

JAM ON IT!

The Ten Commandments

The most famous set of laws in the Old Testament are the Ten Commandments. Using your Bible or the Internet, look up the Ten Commandments. Design a poster that features the commandments (use a printer or create one by hand), and post it where you will see them every day.

LAST JAM

Rules are created for my good!

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.
