GROWING TOGETHER

Devotional Guide

WEEKS 1-5

Junior

GRADE

SDA CHURCH CURRICULUM
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JANUARY
2026

Junior

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Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt

WEEK 1

Junior

JANUARY 3-9, 2026

Bible Point

God guides us.

Key Verse

"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him" (Nahum 1:7).

Big Picture

Kids will follow God's leading in their lives as they trust in God's love for them.

Joseph Takes His Family to Safety in Egypt

Matthew 2:13-23

You know a lot about guidance. You have parents, teachers, coaches, and pastors who help you learn and grow. But sometimes it's harder to understand how an unseen God can give direction in the middle of real-life problems or struggles.

This week, you'll discover how to recognize that guidance and learn to trust that God is leading you. You'll also see how God offers a safe place—a refuge—when life feels confusing or hard.

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JUNIOR: BIBLE BUZZ WEEK 1

Growing in Truth

1 SUNDAY
Exodus 15:13

How does God lead and guide us?

2 MONDAY
Psalm 119:105-106

How can the Bible be a light for your path?

3 TUESDAY
Exodus 13:21-22

How does God guide us through tough times? How do you think God guides you?

4 WEDNESDAY
John 16:13-14

How can the Holy Spirit be your guide today?

5 THURSDAY
Psalm 48:14

How have you seen God guide you over a long period of time?

6 FRIDAY
Isaiah 58:11

What does God do for you when God guides you?

Planting the Seed

Ever had a really weird dream? Well, Joseph had at least a couple of them. In fact, God spoke to him in his dreams! God told Joseph in a dream to leave Bethlehem, a city in Judea, and take his family to Egypt. Joseph was told that Herod was going to try to kill Jesus. Joseph and Mary obeyed right away, and off to Egypt they went. And it's a good thing because Herod did come looking for Jesus. In fact, Herod was so set on killing Jesus that he had all the boys in Bethlehem who were Jesus' age killed. After Herod died, God told Joseph it was OK to go back to Israel. But God warned him to stay away from Judea and to live in Nazareth instead. Joseph and Mary followed God's guidance all the way (Matthew 2:13-23).

- What do Joseph and Mary's actions show about trusting God's guidance?
- How does God guide you?
- How can you learn to recognize and follow God's guidance right away?

Family Fun

Take a family drive, and let each person in the car guide the driver during a certain portion of the trip. You could go to local destinations such as a school, a store, or a restaurant. As each person guides the driver, try to make the directions specific. Instead of saying, "Drive to the grocery store," give directions such as, "Turn right at this corner," and "Drive south for 2.3 miles."

Bring a map or GPS for reference. After the drive, stop for a meal or a treat. As you eat, talk about what it was like to give directions or listen carefully for directions during the drive. Then talk about how to learn to listen to God's directions in life. Commit to try listening for God's guidance all the time, not just during times of trouble.

READY, SET, GROW!

Let God guide you this week:

- Commit to reading the Bible every day. As you read, ask yourself two questions: “What does this passage say?” and “How is God inviting me to change my life because of what I just read?”
- Where do you need God’s guidance right now? Commit to praying to God each day for that situation. Seek the advice of a trusted adult or friend to help you understand what God’s wisdom might be, and ask them to help you keep your commitment to go wherever God leads.
- Reflect on how God has guided you in the past, and write a list of those moments down. Hang them in your room to remind you that on the hard days, God guides you!

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You’re a codebreaker! This message is written in secret code where every letter has been replaced with a random letter or number. See if you can unlock the hidden phrase! (Hint: the message is today’s truth from the Bible to remember!)

Jesus is Baptized

WEEK 2

Junior

JANUARY 10-16, 2026

Bible Point

Jesus is God's Son.

Key Verse

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).

Big Picture

Make daily decisions by learning to trust the love of God's Son, Jesus.

Jesus is Baptized

Matthew 3:13-17

It's easy to look up to heroes: athletes, movie stars, musicians, or other people who seem to have it all. Some of them set good examples, and some don't. This week, you'll learn about the best role model you could ever have: Jesus, the Son of God. As you get to know and follow Jesus more closely, others will start to notice something different about you, a positive change that comes from living the way Jesus taught.

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JUNIOR: BIBLE BUZZ WEEK 2

Growing in Truth

1 SUNDAY
Hebrews 4:14-15

Jesus is the Son of God, and He is God. But how was Jesus also like you?

2 MONDAY
1 John 4:9

What does this verse mean to you?

3 TUESDAY
Ephesians 1:17

The more time you spend with Jesus, the better you'll know Him! How can you spend more time with Jesus each day?

4 WEDNESDAY
Isaiah 9:6

What does this verse tell you about who Jesus is?

5 THURSDAY
Galatians 3:28

How do you know if you're a child of God?

6 FRIDAY
John 3:16-17

What do you believe about Jesus, the Son of God?

Planting the Seed

In today's Bible passage, John the Baptist was preaching to the people, telling them to stop disobeying God. He was also baptizing people in the Jordan River. This baptism was symbolic, showing that they wanted to turn away from sin. One day, when John was preaching and baptizing, Jesus showed up and asked to be baptized! Well, John knew who Jesus was, so at first he refused. He figured Jesus should baptize him! But Jesus insisted. After He was baptized, God spoke out loud. (Wow! Did you catch that? God spoke out loud!) He told John, Jesus, and everyone standing around that Jesus is God's Son. (Matthew 3:13-17)

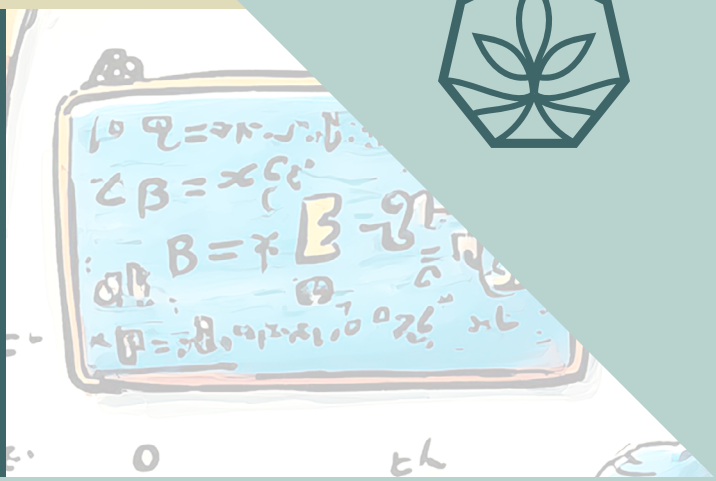
- What does it mean to hear God's voice?
- Why is it important to know who Jesus is?

Family Fun

On a big sheet of paper, draw an outline of a person (who will represent Jesus). Write "Jesus is..." at the top of the paper. Give everyone a marker, and let family members write words or draw symbols inside the outline, indicating who Jesus is to them. Continue until everyone runs out of things to write. Then examine what you've written, and close with a prayer thanking God for sending Jesus.

READY, SET, GROW!

Instead of a Daily Challenge this week, make a star in the "If Jesus Is God..." section of your activity page beside each area of your life that you really want to focus on connecting with God more. Then spend time each day this coming week growing in those areas.



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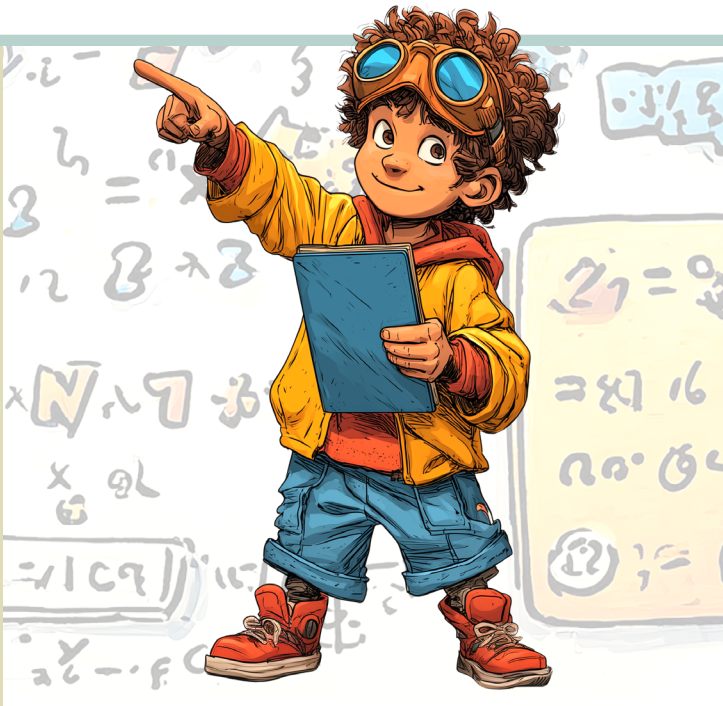

Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus

WEEK 3

Junior

JANUARY 17-23, 2026

Bible Point

Jesus is our friend.

Key Verse

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Big Picture

Learn how to grow in your friendship with Jesus and help others to know the love of Jesus.

Peter and Andrew Meet Jesus

John 1:35-42

Friends mean a lot. You notice who's close, who's drifting apart, and who's feeling left out. Friendships are becoming a big part of your life as you start to grow more independent. This week, you'll explore what it means to have a real friendship with Jesus, a friendship that grows stronger every day. You'll also learn how that friendship can shape the way you treat and care for your other friends.

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JUNIOR: BIBLE BUZZ WEEK 3

Growing in Truth

1 SUNDAY
1 John 5:13

How do you know you have eternal life?

2 MONDAY
Mark 1:16-18

In what ways are you following Jesus?

3 TUESDAY
Philippians 3:8

What have you gained by knowing Jesus?

4 WEDNESDAY
2 Corinthians 2:14

Where can you spread "the fragrance of the knowledge" of Jesus?

5 THURSDAY
2 Corinthians 4:6

How can you let Jesus' light shine through you?

6 FRIDAY
2 Peter 3:18

What are some things you can do to grow in your knowledge of Jesus?

Planting the Seed

John the Baptist was telling people some pretty amazing things. One day as Jesus walked by, John said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" Two of John's disciples heard what John said, so they started following Jesus instead. They must have figured if John said Jesus was the one to follow, it was a good idea to follow him! Jesus turned around and asked what they wanted. Then he invited them to spend some time with Him. The Bible doesn't tell us what was said when they were together, but it must have been awesome! One of the disciples, Andrew, went to tell his brother Simon about Jesus. In fact, Andrew was so excited, he told Simon they had found the Messiah and took Simon to meet Jesus right away. When Jesus saw Simon, he changed Simon's name to Peter (which means "rock"). But that's not all—Jesus changed Peter's life! (John 1:35-42)

- How has knowing Jesus changed your life?
- Why is it important to show others Jesus' love?
- What's hard about talking about Jesus? How can you make it easier?

Family Fun

As a family, make a list of each family member's friends. Then write reasons why each of those people is a friend, such as "Amy listens" or "Bob helps me." Then talk about how Jesus is our friend. Do that by substituting the name of Jesus for the people's names on the reasons why they're friends. For example, instead of "Amy listens," say "Jesus listens." Instead of "Bob helps me," say "Jesus helps me." You'll find that Jesus shows almost every quality of a human friendship—and a lot more. Post your list of how Jesus is your friend on your refrigerator or other place everyone can see it. Every day look at the list and choose one of Jesus' friendship qualities and thank Him for it. Jesus is your friend!

READY, SET, GROW!

Help others know Jesus as a friend this week:

- Write down all the ways you can think of that God shows friendship to you. As you write them down, thank God for each one of those ways. Then share what you've learned with someone else.
- Take time to just listen to someone this week, and build a relationship with that person. Ask questions, listen to that person's story, and pray for them. Be a Jesus kind of friend to that person.
- Deliver the invitation you made, and invite your friend to join you for church the next time you come.

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News About Jesus Spreads

WEEK 4

Junior

JANUARY 24-30, 2026

Bible Point

Jesus invites everyone to follow him.

Key Verse

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

Big Picture

Follow Jesus and look to him for comfort and guidance.

News About Jesus Spreads

Matthew 4:12-25

You might be starting to handle more of your own problems and worries without asking adults for help. Some of those worries can feel really big, and it’s not always easy to talk about them. Friends might listen, but they can’t always fix what’s wrong. This week, you’ll learn that one of the best parts of following Jesus is knowing that Jesus cares about your struggles and has the power to help. When you bring your worries to Jesus, you can find real rest and peace.

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JUNIOR: BIBLE BUZZ WEEK 4

Growing in Truth

1 SUNDAY
Hebrews 4:16

What does it mean to approach God with confidence?

2 MONDAY
Mark 2:1-12

These men needed to talk to Jesus because their friend was paralyzed. What do you need to talk to Jesus about?

3 TUESDAY
John 4:46-54

Why can we trust Jesus' promises?

4 WEDNESDAY
Mark 1:40-42

How do you hope Jesus will respond when you ask him for help?

5 THURSDAY
Matthew 18:19-20

Who could you ask to pray with you about your problems?

6 FRIDAY
Luke 18:1-8

What can we do when our prayers aren't answered right away?

Planting the Seed

Jesus traveled around, teaching people about God's kingdom and healing them. Well, when a person is teaching a new message of hope, people tend to listen. And when someone starts healing people left and right—well, let's just say Jesus was getting a lot of attention. People with all kinds of problems and diseases came from miles around to be healed by Jesus. As Jesus healed people, the news about Him spread, and more people came to Him. (Matthew 4:12-25)

- What can you do today to follow Jesus?
- What problems do you have that you can give to Jesus?

Family Fun

With your family, come up with a list of ways that your family can follow Jesus. Think of everything you can. Then, as a family, choose three of the items from the list that are the most doable for you. Then do the first item on the list. Following Jesus doesn't have to be hard—you can do it!

READY, SET, GROW!

Give your burdens to Jesus this week:

- Write down the things that are burdening you right now. Then lift each item on that list to God in prayer, thanking Him for His willingness to take our burdens. Then "cast the burdens" on your list into the trash, and trust God to give you rest from them.
- Keep a journal of how you follow Jesus this week. At the end of your week, review your journal and thank God for leading you through the week.
- Support someone who's going through a tough time. Listen to what the person's needs are, and see what you can do to meet those needs (or find someone who can). Pass on Jesus' love through your actions!

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Jesus Gives the Beatitudes

WEEK 5

Junior

JAN 31-FEB 6, 2026

Bible Point

It is a blessing to live out God's love.

Key Verse

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

Big Picture

Follow God's loving ways that Jesus taught in the Beatitudes.

Jesus Gives the Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

You're growing and changing fast—physically, emotionally, and in the way you think about life. Some days it can feel like everything is shifting at once. Your emotions can swing quickly, and it's easy to feel tired or unsure of what choices to make. This week, you'll discover that even when everything around you feels uncertain, God stays the same. You'll learn how to focus your thoughts on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable—things that help you stay grounded and at peace no matter what changes come your way.

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JUNIOR: BIBLE BUZZ WEEK **5**

Growing in Truth

1 SUNDAY
Psalm 19:14

What about you right now is pleasing to God?

2 MONDAY
1 Peter 2:11-12

How should followers of Jesus stand out in the world?

3 TUESDAY
Romans 12:2

How can you renew your mind in God's love this week?

4 WEDNESDAY
Philippians 2:5

What does it mean to have the same mindset as Jesus?

5 THURSDAY
Matthew 25:34-40

How can we love others like Jesus?

6 FRIDAY
Ephesians 4:22-24

In what ways would you like to grow and "be made new" in Jesus?

Planting the Seed

Jesus' introduction to his Sermon on the Mount must have come as a surprise to his listeners. After all, many thought the wealthy and powerful were the ones who were fully enjoying God's rich blessings. I mean, hey, they were the ones with all the breaks in life. Didn't that mean God liked them best? They must have been doing something right! Jesus' words turned this idea upside down. He spoke God's blessings on those who were meek, poor, and humble. Jesus taught about how living out God's love leads to a blessed life. (Matthew 5:1-12)

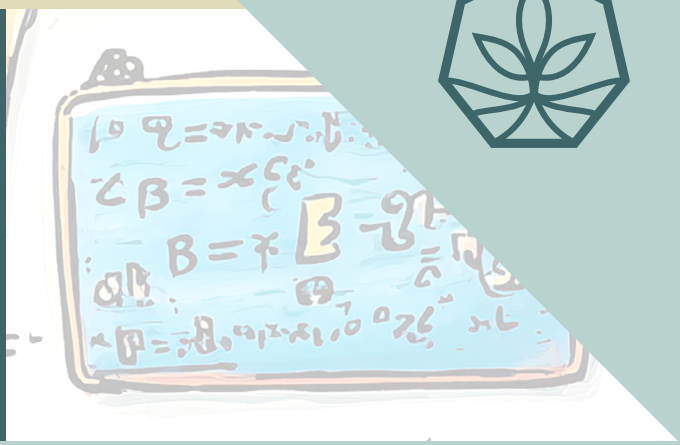
- What do you think of Jesus' "reversed" values?
- How can these values apply to your life today?
- What does it mean to be "blessed"?

Family Fun

As you watch TV and movies, listen to music, or read this week, look for examples of people who might be blessed according to the Beatitudes. Keep track of your findings by creating a Beatitude wall chart. Make one column for each Beatitude, and put some fun stickers near the chart. Each time a family member sees a Beatitude in action, have that person put a sticker on the corresponding column on the chart and write a brief note explaining what he or she saw.

READY, SET, GROW!

Instead of a Daily Challenge this week, commit to follow through on the three ways you'll demonstrate the Beatitude that you wrote in Take 2 on your activity page in Sabbath School.



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