



Week of January 1 - a

Scripture: Mt 1:1-16

Main Idea: God can use us to accomplish great things even if we've made big mistakes in the past. Notice Judah, father of Perez by Tamar (Gen 38), Rahab (the prostitute, Josh 2:1) David the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah (aka Bathsheba, 1 Sam 11).

Questions

Preschool: Do we ever make mistakes? Does God still love us even when we disobey?

Grade school: When we feel bad for disobeying, what should we do to make it right?

Teen: What are examples of "big" sins that a teen might commit? Could they be forgiven if they repented? Could God still use them in the future?

Adult: Do you ever feel like mistakes in your past keep you from being used by God for his purpose?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to help us to be more forgiving of others and ourselves and for more confidence knowing he can use us to accomplish great things in spite of our weakness.

Monthly Memory Verse

Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.



Week of January 1 - 6

Scripture: Mt 1:18-21

Main Idea: God sends his son to earth as a baby to a common poor ordinary couple just at the right time. They were committed, but not yet married, and therefore Jesus would be born to a virgin, as God had planned. This plan has a rocky start with Joseph planning to divorce Mary when he finds out she is pregnant.

Questions

Preschool: When Jesus was born, who were his parents? Do you think they were excited that baby Jesus was coming?

Grade school: Who named the baby Jesus? Why did God say his name would be Jesus? (A: Jesus in Hebrew means "Yahweh saves" or "Yahweh is salvation." Yahweh was the Hebrew [Old Testament] name for God). Can anyone else save us from our sins but Jesus?

Teen: Mary and Joseph were likely young "adults" with plans to make a life for themselves. Imagine if you were them, what would have been your questions? Fears? Reasons for excitement?

Adult: No doubt this responsibility of raising God's son Jesus was not in Joseph and Mary's plans. Is God doing things in our lives that aren't in our plans or timing? Are you open to God's plans taking over your plans? What can you do to be more ready for what God might be wanting to do in your life?

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY:

For God to work his plan in our lives and with our lives and for us to be ready to yield to his will for our future.

Monthly Memory Verse

Psalm 5:8 (ESV)

⁸ Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.