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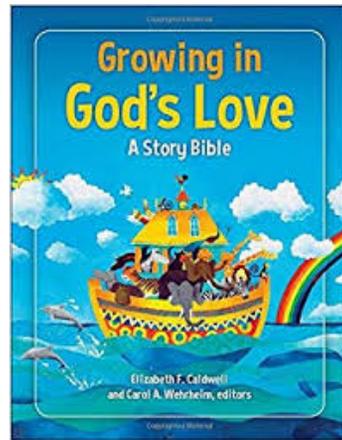
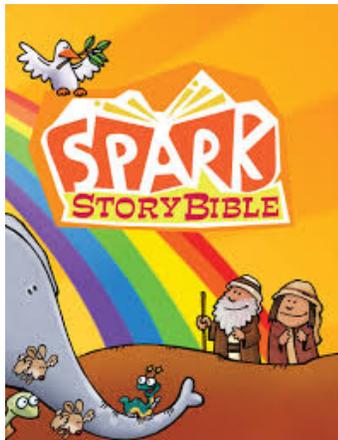
Loved and Chosen: Our Family Tree

A Bible Reading Project for Everyone

A Bible or a Story Bible; Which Do You Choose?

For families with children we suggest that your bible readings come from one of the Story Bibles referenced in this booklet. The *Spark Story Bible* is suitable for families with pre-school and early primary aged children, while *Growing in God's Love* is perfect for families with children who are readers and might want a little more detail in the stories. Both are excellent story bibles. Have a look at both and decide which is most suitable for your family.

Older children, teens and adults are invited to read the same stories along with the younger families of the church from your preferred version of the bible. If you have older children perhaps choose *Today's English Version* (Good News Bible) for its very readable text. If there are no children participating, then choose a version like the *New Revised Standard Version* or the *New International Version*.



Loved and Chosen: Kings and New Promises

In this, our final week we read about two kings that God made to be leaders over the people of Israel. We begin meeting Samuel, who as a young boy lived in the temple with Eli who was a priest. God woke up Samuel in the middle of the night to tell him that he must give Eli some very sad news. Samuel did all that God told him to do. Samuel grew up to be great prophet in Israel.

When Samuel was older God told Samuel to anoint Saul as the very first king over Israel. Samuel also anointed David as the second king over Israel. At times each king was a good and faithful king, and sometimes they forgot that God was the true king over Israel.

After many kings God told another young boy, Jeremiah, that he was going to be a prophet; someone who delivers God's message to God's people. Jeremiah told the people that something new was going to happen that would be even better than the kings.

Read the bible story or scripture reading for today

Questions to wonder about

- God speaks to us in many different ways. Tell about a time that God got your attention.
- Think of a time when you said, "I can't," or "I'm scared." How did God help you get through something tough?
- What makes a king good?
- I wonder what it means that God doesn't look at us the way other people look at us?

Prayer

Dear God, help us to know what is right, what is kind, what is wise. Help us to do what you want you want us to do. Amen.

Week 6

Loved and Chosen: Kings and New Promises

If you are reading from the **Spark Story Bible**

God Calls Samuel (pg. 122)
David Is Chosen (pg. 126)
David and Goliath (pg. 130)
Solomon Builds the Temple (pg. 136)
Jeremiah (pg. 176)

If you are reading from **Growing in God's Love**

Samuel Tells a Hard Truth (pg. 106)
A Brand-New King (pg.110)
David Meets Goliath (pg. 112)
Solomon Builds the Temple (pg. 126)
Speak Up, Jeremiah (pg. 148)

If you are reading from any version of **The Bible**

Monday - 1 Samuel 2:18-21; 3:1-20
Tuesday - 1 Samuel 7:15-8:9; 9:1-2, 15-10:1a
Wednesday - 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Thursday - 1 Samuel 17:1-58
Friday - 1 Kings 6:1-38
Saturday - Jeremiah 1:1-10
Sunday - Jeremiah 31:1-14, 31-34

Welcome to our Bible Reading Project

Join us as we trace the story of God's people, our family tree through the Old Testament together.

For six weeks, all-ages in our church family are invited to be reading God's word at home. Whether you use a great bible story book or your favourite version of scripture, we will all be celebrating these stories together and in every activity that our church is involved in for the next six weeks. Here's what we are excited to be doing:

On your own or as a family at home:

The practice of reading scripture everyday helps us contemplate and live out our lives as vital members of God's family. Joining in this project gives all of us the wonderful opportunity to build great Bible reading habits.

Choose a time and place where you will be able to complete your reading, reflection, and prayer with reasonable consistency. Maybe first thing in the morning, after dinner or before bed will work best in your home. Read each day's assigned reading and discuss it together. Consider using some or all of the weekly questions to guide your reflections.

Together as a church family:

Encourage your friends and family, start conversations about what you've been reading, challenge yourself to read more, the options are endless.

Week 1
Loved and Chosen: Beautiful Promises

If you are reading from the **Spark Story Bible**

Creation (pg. 2)
Adam and Eve (pg. 8)
Abram's Call (pg. 26)
God's Promises to Abram (pg. 30)
Abraham and Sarah's Visitors (pg. 34)

If you are reading from **Growing in God's Love**

How God Made Everything (pg. 20)
We Were All Farmers Once (pg. 22)
Abram and Sarai Find a New Home (pg. 26)
God Made Sarah Laugh (pg. 50)

If you are reading from any version of **The Bible**

Monday - Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Tuesday - Genesis 2:4b-22
Wednesday - Genesis 12:1-9
Thursday - Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Friday - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Saturday - Genesis 18:1-15
Sunday - Genesis 21:1-7

Loved and Chosen: Strong Women

This week we will meet great women from God's family tree who were wives, mothers and daughters. One of these women helped others make wise decisions as a judge. Another left her home country and followed her mother-in-law to a new land and a new life among God's people. Yet another promised God that if she could have a baby that she would make sure he lived to serve God all the days of his life.

There are many more strong women in the bible. God chose each of them to lead God's people in a special way, and to show us that everyone, girls and boys, men and women, have important things to say and do for God to be known in the world.

Read the bible story or scripture reading for today

Questions to wonder about

- Tell about a time you put the needs of someone else over your own needs. What was the result?
- Tell about a time when it seemed that things happened by chance, but it was really God's way of providing for you.
- God uses everyone, young and old, male and female. Talk about how you can prepare to be strong and ready for anything God needs you to do.
- Name a way you could lead your friends in making a difference. Pray about it. Ask God for courage, good ideas, and help.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to hear your voice and be ready and willing to do the things you have planned for us to do.
Amen.

Loved and Chosen: Beautiful Promises

Week 5

Loved and Chosen: Strong Women

If you are reading from the **Spark Story Bible**

Deborah (pg. 106)
Naomi and Ruth (pg. 110)
Ruth and Boaz (pg. 114)
Hannah Prays for a Child (pg. 118)

If you are reading from **Growing in God's Love**

Deborah, a Wise Prophet (pg. 72)
Leaving Moab (pg. 60)
Ruth and Naomi's New Life in Bethlehem (pg. 62)
Naomi's New Family (pg. 64)
Hannah's Prayer to God (pg. 74)

If you are reading from any version of **The Bible**

Monday - Judges 4:1-16
Tuesday - Judges 5:1-31
Wednesday - Ruth 1:1-22
Thursday - Ruth 2:1-23
Friday - Ruth 4:1-17
Saturday - 1 Samuel 1:1-28
Sunday - 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Let's start our reading this week at the very beginning of the story; where God's family tree, our family tree, begins. God starts the story with making a world filled with wonderful things; birds, fish and animals, trees and fruit, rain and sunshine, and people too. Everything was good!

The world continued to grow with lots of people living in all sorts of places. God asks a very special husband and wife to get up and move from where they are and go to live in a brand new place; a place they've never been to and know nothing about.

Abram and Sarai go without questioning God. Abram and Sarai are happy, but still wish more than anything else that they would have a baby. It doesn't seem like their wish will ever come true, but God has another idea. God promises them a baby, and even more than that, God promises that they will be the first parents of a very, very big family tree.

Read the bible story or scripture reading for today

Questions to wonder about

- What do you think God meant when he said creation was 'good'?
- Tell about a time that you looked after something or someone.
- Why do you think promises are important? What makes God's promises special?
- I wonder what part of each story is most important?

Prayer

God of all people, you are the creator of all things. Your Word is filled with promises and truths. Fill us with hope, wonder and joy. Help us when we doubt and be patient with us as we listen for your voice. Amen.

Loved and Chosen: Growing Into the Family

Week 2

Loved and Chosen: The Family Grows

Monday, Oct. 14 - Sunday, Oct 20, 2019

If you are reading from the **Spark Story Bible**

Rebekah and Isaac (pg. 38)
Isaac's Blessing (pg. 42)
Joseph and His Brothers (pg. 48)
Pharaoh's Dreams (pg. 54)
Joseph Helps His Family (pg. 60)

If you are reading from **Growing in God's Love**

God Tugs at Rebekah's Heart (pg. 52)
Esau and Jacob Both Want Their Share (pg. 32)
Joseph and His Brothers (pg. 38)
Joseph Helps Out in Egypt (pg. 40)
Joseph Helps His Brothers (pg. 42)

If you are reading from any version of **The Bible**

Monday - Genesis 24:1-67
Tuesday - Genesis 25:19-28
Wednesday - Genesis 27:1-40
Thursday - Genesis 37:1-36
Friday - Genesis 39:1, 20-40:23
Saturday - Genesis 41:1-42:5
Sunday - Genesis 42:6-7; 44:1-5, 11-45:15

God's people set out to cross the desert to get to the wonderful new place that God has promised to them. Before they get there though they spend a lot of years living in the desert. They have very little to eat and drink in the desert and the people struggle to learn to trust that God will provide them with all that they need.

But the people need to learn more than to simply trust God for their food and water. They also need to learn how to worship God alone and care for each other. Because they have so much to learn their journey takes a very long time. It takes forty years for the people of God to be ready to enter into the promised land. By the time they make it to their new homeland Moses is very old and a new member of the family tree is chosen by God to lead them across the Jordan River to their new home.

Read the bible story or scripture reading for today

Questions to wonder about

- What does this story tell you about how God takes care of us?
- Talk about a day when you were thankful and showed it. Compare it with a day when you wanted to grumble and complain. What made each day different?
- Why do you think we have rules?
- God wants us to always remember these stories. What will you remember about God from this story?

Prayer

God of all people, you are the creator of all things. Your Word is filled with promises and truths. Fill us with hope, wonder and joy. Help us when we doubt and be patient with us as we listen for your voice. Amen.

Loved and Chosen: The Family Grows

Week 4

Loved and Chosen: Growing Into the Family

If you are reading from the **Spark Story Bible**

Manna, Quail and Water (pg. 90)
The Ten Commandments (pg. 94)
A Message From God (pg. 100)
The Battle of Jericho (pg. 102)

If you are reading from **Growing in God's Love**

Just Enough (pg. 96)
God Is Where the Water Is (pg. 98)
God Gives the Ten Commandments (pg. 166)
The Most Important Thing to Remember (pg. 168)
March, Make Music, and Shout (pg. 102)

If you are reading from any version of **The Bible**

Monday - Exodus 16:1-31
Tuesday - Exodus 17:1-7
Wednesday - Exodus 20:1-21
Thursday - Exodus 25:8-22; 40:1-38
Friday - Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Saturday - Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-12
Sunday - Joshua 6:1-20

Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac grew up and got married to Rebekah. Soon our little family tree begins to burst with babies who also grow up to follow God.

Abraham and Sarah have Isaac. Isaac and his wife Rebekah have twins boys, Esau and Jacob. Jacob grows up and gets married two times, to sisters Leah and Rachel. Jacob has many sons, but his favourites two are Joseph and Benjamin.

With each new generation the family tree spreads its branches. Some members of the family do very bad things, but God is able to bring great things out of the bad decisions the people make.

Read the bible story or scripture reading for today

Questions to wonder about

- God takes care of the growing family in wonderful, but unexpected ways. Which part of today's story is the most amazing to you?
- Have you ever had to wait for a sad or hard time to be over? What was that like? How was God still taking care of you?
- How can you help others who might be going through difficult times?

Prayer

God of mercy and love, we thank you for the gift of families. May our own families be places of love, mercy, and joy as you continually change us in good ways. Amen.

Loved and Chosen: Rescued

Week 3 Loved and Chosen: Rescued

If you are reading from the **Spark Story Bible**

Baby Moses (pg. 66)
The Burning Bush (pg. 72)
Free From Slavery (pg. 76)
The Plagues (pg. 78)
The Red Sea (pg. 84)

If you are reading from **Growing in God's Love**

Miriam Hides Baby Moses (pg.56)
Moses and the Special Holy Place (pg. 90)
Terrible, Awful Things (pg. 92)
Walking on Dry Land (pg. 94)

If you are reading from any version of **The Bible**

Monday - Exodus 1:8-2:15
Tuesday - Exodus 3:1-20
Wednesday - Exodus 5:1-6:13
Thursday - Exodus 7:1-22; 8:1-7, 16-24; 9:1-7
Friday - Exodus 9:8-12, 22-35; 10:3-11:1, 4-8
Saturday - Exodus 12:1-13, 28-32; 13:17-22
Sunday - Exodus 14:5-31

Many generations pass and God's people stay in Egypt. The family tree gets bigger and bigger. Many years later a new Pharaoh decides they should not be free to move where they want, eat what they want, do what they want and worship as they want. God's people become slaves in Egypt and their lives become very hard.

God hears the cries of his people and tells Moses he needs to help free the people from slavery and take them to a new land where they can live and grow and worship God in freedom. Moses listens to God and pleads with the Pharaoh of Egypt let God's people go.

Read the bible story or scripture reading for today

Questions to wonder about

- Remember a time when you were afraid. What helped you? What did you learn that could help you another time?
- God promised Moses and the people good land. What is the best thing about the land where you live?
- God could have taken the people out of Egypt by himself. Why do you think God wanted Pharaoh to say yes?
- Moses said, "don't be afraid." Share times when someone has encouraged you or you have encouraged another person with a promise from God.

Prayer

Holy God, you have been the protector of people since the beginning of time. Thank you for loving us and giving us life. Be with us when we laugh and when we cry. Help us to remember your goodness and compassion. Amen.