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LIFE IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT.

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Inspire (for parents)

Recently, I visited a Sunday school classroom and noticed a large banner titled, “God’s Timeline.” On it were events like “God creates man,” “400 years of silence,” and “Jesus’ birth.” There were also fun facts—the kind kids would find intriguing—including “first toilet,” “the invention of gum,” and “Disneyland opens.”

The banner spanned an entire wall of the classroom. As I read each fact, I was reminded that God is the author of everything that happens on this earth. Each event—whether it was Moses and the burning bush or the birth of democracy—was already dreamed up by God. And the greatest part is: He invites each of us to take an active role.

Legendary baseball player Jackie Robinson summed up for me what God intended for us on this earth: “Life is not a spectator sport. If you’re going to spend your whole life in the grandstand, just watching what goes on, in my opinion you’re wasting your life.”

God wants us to be active participants, not mere observers. More than anything, this is what I want to communicate to my children about faith and their relationship with their

heavenly Father. I think about the timeline in the Sunday school classroom, and if it were to expand to include every important event in human history, there would even be a mark for the day my children were born ... because they have been invited into this grand story of redemption and love.

God has no interest in us spending time in the grandstand. Because God places the utmost importance on His relationship with us, His desire is for us to be a part of history with Him. Today, I am inspired anew for my place in history with Him, and I can’t wait to share this passion with my children!

by Jennifer Cho Salaff

Getting Started

Scripture: Luke 5:1–11 (Peter Is Called)
Main Point: God Invites Us Into His Story

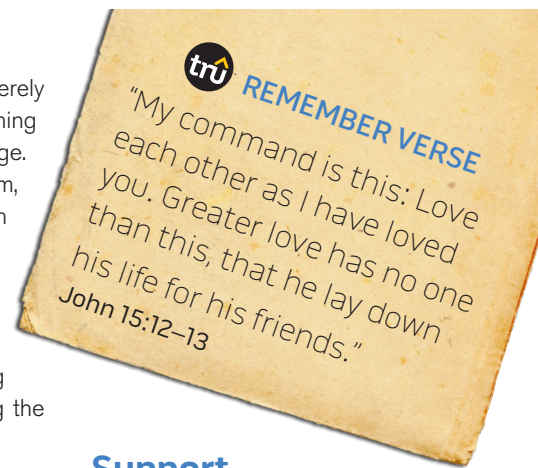
This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

The children of Israel were not merely spectators, they were invited to play a defining role in God’s big plan, even at a young age. In fact, in the Jewish educational system, children as young as six years old train under a rabbi to study the Torah (the first five books of the Old Testament), in hopes of becoming one of the rabbi’s disciples. Studying the Torah includes memorizing passages and practicing inflection, tone, and rhythm when reading the text out loud.

When a student wants to become an apprentice under a rabbi, he approaches a Rabbi and asks to follow him. If the rabbi believes the student would be a good apprentice, he responds by saying, “Come and follow me.” A rabbi chooses the most trained and experienced in their knowledge of the Torah to become his disciples.

Jesus was a different kind of Rabbi. Instead of choosing the most trained and educated apprentices, He chose ordinary men—some of whom were despised members of society, such as Matthew, the tax collector. Instead of waiting to be asked by His disciples if they could study under Him, Jesus sought His disciples out and asked them to come and follow Him. Jesus chose the people society thought of as ordinary men to become men He would use to change the world. Because of His love, God invites us into His plans.



Support (for parents & kids)

> **JUST FOR FUN**, this week read **Luke 5:1–11** outside. If you have access to water (a lake, an ocean, a stream, etc.), find a quiet spot next to it and read this part of The Big God Story. After reading about Jesus and the fishermen, ask them what surprised them the most about this part of The Big God Story.

Then ask your children to share with you why they think Simon (Peter) told Jesus to go away? Jesus invited them to be a part of His plans—He said He would make them fishers of men. What do you think that means? Talk together about what it would look like to leave everything behind to follow Jesus.

Remind your children that what they just heard is part of The Big God Story, and they will hear more about it this week in church. Thank God together that He invites us to be a part of His story.

“JESUS INVITED THEM TO BE A PART OF HIS PLANS.”

