

WEEK 1

GOD IS PROVIDER

GOD PROVIDES OUR NEEDS

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

KEY IDEAS

1. God knows what we need better than we do
2. God provides everything we need
3. God is a loving Father who takes care of His children

KEY PASSAGE

Matthew 6:25-33, Matthew 14:13-21

KEY PRINCIPLES

EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW ...

God knows all our needs better than we do.

EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL ...

comforted that we serve a God who knows us and takes care of His children.

EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO ...

trust that God our Father will take care of us.

EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT ...

to serve the God who knows us and cares for us.

INTRODUCTION

God is the One who not only creates life, but He sustains it. The very breath in our lungs comes from God, and He is the source of all life in heaven and on earth. Nothing lives apart from Him, and everything we have has been given to us because of Him. Everything God gives is good, and He takes care of His children. Jesus says in Matthew 6:25-33 that life is more than what we eat or drink, and we should not worry that He will provide what we need. The birds of the air do not store away their food, and yet the Father feeds them. The flowers of the field do not spin yarn for clothing and yet the grass is beautifully adorned with them. God takes great care in all of His creation, and people are His greatest creation because we are made in His image. We can trust our Father can take greater care of us than we can for ourselves.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by leading the children in a discussion of needs vs. wants. Draw a line down the center of the board. Label one column "Needs" and the other "Wants". Discuss the differences and ask the children to name items that could be needs/wants. As they are called out, write them under the appropriate column. Talk about how God always gives us what we need and because He is a good Father, He sometimes also gives us what we want. Whether God gives us what we want or not, we should live with a grateful heart that our God takes great care of us.

STORY

Read Matthew 14:13-21 or use the Jesus Storybook Bible.

As news began to spread of Jesus and how He was performing miracles, many people gathered to hear His teaching. They wanted to hear from the One who had the power to change peoples' lives forever. Jesus had compassion for the people who came to Him for help, and He spent the whole day teaching and healing. As it grew dark, the disciples told Jesus that He needed to send them away so they could eat. But Jesus had a different idea in mind.

What did Jesus say to His disciples when they told Him to send the people away?

What do you think the disciples must have thought when Jesus told them to give the people food that they did not have?

The disciples must have been confused. They responded to Jesus that they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Then Jesus taught them a very important lesson.

When the disciples brought Him what they had, Jesus multiplied it so that there was enough food for all the people to eat and be full. There was even food left over!

What important lesson do you think Jesus was trying to teach His disciples? God will always provide, but sometimes it may look different than we expect!

ACTIVITY

Using the activity sheets included, cut out the fish, loaves, and basket. Fold the basket in half and staple the sides together. Let the kids color their baskets, loaves, and fish. The fish and loaves can go in the basket once they finish. Explain that just like Jesus provided for the people when they were hungry and in need, even though they did not have enough food at first, we can come to Jesus in prayer when we are in need, and He will provide what we need even if it looks different than we think!

PRAYER

Thank God that He is a good Father who always takes care of His children. Ask God to help you trust that He will take care of you, too!

SONG

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands by We Sing Bible Songs

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Exodus 15:22-16:36, Romans 8:32

ACTIVITY

Cut out pictures from magazines (or draw) to create a collage of items we need to survive (food, water, clothing, etc.). On a separate and different colored piece of paper, write out Philippians 4:19. Glue the paper with the verse onto the paper with the images. Talk with your child about the differences in needs and wants. Use the discussion questions below to talk about how God provides our needs and because He is a good Father, who loves us, He sometimes also provides our wants, even though they may look different than we expect.

DISCUSSION

- What is the difference in needs and wants?
- What is the best response when God chooses not to give us what we want?
Our Heavenly Father knows what we need better than we do. Sometimes God chooses not to give us the things we ask for or want because He has a plan for what is better. Our response should always be to trust that our Heavenly Father knows what we need better than we do.

PRAYER

Thank God for providing everything we need and some of what we want. Thank Him that He gives graciously and lovingly more than we could ever ask. Ask God to help you trust Him when He does not give you what you want, knowing that He always does give us what He knows is best.

- THINGS THAT ARE
- IMPOSSIBLE
- WITH PEOPLE ARE
- POSSIBLE
- WITH GOD.
LUKE 18:27

