

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 1- Week of September 18th

THE BEGINNING OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

Bringing The Story Home is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.



Timeless Truth: Humans are God's crowning creation.

Bible Basis: Genesis 1-9:17

Key Verse: *When God created man, he made him in his own likeness.* –Genesis 5:1, NIV

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the key point from the Sunday school class your child or children attended. Use the Table Talk question to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child know that they are perfectly created by God. The Extra mile idea will help your family spread God's love in the community.

Get The Point: God made a perfect creation. We messed it up. God offers us grace in Jesus and a promise that He will fix it.

Table Talk:

- **If you could live a day as any animal, what animal would it be? What are some of the good and bad things about living as that animal?**
- **What are some ways people and animals are different?**

You may want to explain that although God loves and cares for all of His creation; humans are the only part of Creation made in God's image. We were created to have a special relationship with God. See the First Article of the Apostle's Creed and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism for some more information about this. You can find the text of the Small Catechism on pages 321-330 of the Lutheran Service Book or online at: <http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>
- **What are some things you really like about yourself?**
- **Hollywood actors and models always talk about how they'd like to change their appearance, yet they're considered pretty people. Why do you think culture is so consumed with looks and fame?**
- **Do you think God would change anything about you?**

Living Faith: Spend a few moments one evening on a family treasure hunt. You can write your own clues or use the ones given here. End your hunt at a mirror (either hand held or in a bathroom) so your family can discover God's greatest creation—you!

Clue #1:

I'm no simple box with doors and a light.

I will keep you food cold, both day and night.

Clue #2: (Hide in Refrigerator)

Yawn...If you're tired, you're coming to me.

For safety and warmth, I'm the place to be.

Clue #3: (Hide in a Bed)

I'm pretty and make oxygen for you.

Give me water—it's the right thing to do.

Clue #4: (Hide in a Plant)

With four wheels and an engine, I go fast.
But without any gas, I cannot last.

Clue #5(Hide in Car)

Your search is almost over, so be glad.
You wipe your eyes with me when you are sad.

*OPTION #1- Takes you to the Bathroom

Clue #6 (Hide in Tissue Box)

This is the last clue. Hope it has been fun.
Always wash your hands in here when you're done.

*OPTION #2- Takes you to the couch where you have put a mirror under the cushions.

Clue #6 (Hide in Tissue Box)

Come to me when you want to sit around.
Lift up my cushions and treasure you've found.

When you find the mirror, ask your children to identify the treasure. (They should say it's them.) Remind your children that they are created in God's image. Let them know how proud you are of them. Talk about some things you appreciate about them and tie that into how those characteristics are from God. Remind them that God expects a lot from them. Remind them that although sin messes up the image at times, Jesus brings forgiveness and restores us.

Extra Mile: For added emphasis on this week's theme, try one of these activities.

1. Grab a family photo album that has some shots of you enjoying the outdoors. Ask:
 - **What do you remember most about this experience?**
 - **What are some of your favorite things about God's creation?**
 - **How can you see God's handiwork in the outdoors?**
 - **Where are some places you'd like to visit?**

If the conversation leads, plan a fun family outing or your next family vacation enjoying God's creation.

2. Remind your children that all people are important to God by taking some food to a local food bank or going through your closets and making a donation to a homeless shelter or other donation center. Remind your kids that helping those in need shows them God's love.

Here are a couple of local donation centers:

Lutheran Social Services
1611 Pine Ave
Long Beach, CA 90813
(562) 599-1321

Christian Outreach In Action
515 East 3rd Street
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 432-1440

Prayer Time: *Dear God, thank you for making me and all of creation. Thank you for taking care of all of our needs and defending us from all danger. Help us to always put you first in all we do and remind us always that we have been created in your image and that you love us so much. Amen.*