

Unity of Oak Park - 2025 Youth & Family Ministry Curriculum

Introduction: This curriculum has been thoughtfully created specifically for the youth and families of Unity Oak Park, aligning with the 2025 calendar year. Designed around Unity's 12 Powers, it provides a dynamic and spiritually enriching framework for our children, teens, and their families. Its purpose is to guide young hearts and minds in recognizing and embracing their divine connection with God, each other, and the fullness of life.

At Unity Oak Park, our mission is to offer a safe, judgment-free, supportive, and nurturing environment for our youth. Here, they can fully experience the recognition and acceptance of their oneness with God. Through spirit-driven guidance, we empower them to realize and embrace the divine within themselves. This curriculum serves as a flexible framework that enhances our Sunday morning structure and supports the overall spiritual journey.

The curriculum is designed for a multi-aged group of children, ages four to twelve, with group sizes ranging from two to fifteen. It is adaptable to different ages and developmental stages, ensuring that every child can engage meaningfully with the material. It is also a living, breathing document that allows for flexibility—stories can be swapped, new activities introduced, and adjustments made to meet the evolving needs of our community.

Each weekly lesson incorporates a scripture, a corresponding Bible story, and an alternative story, such as a fairy tale, folklore, or fable, that connects with the weekly theme. These stories aim to deepen the students' understanding while offering fresh and relatable perspectives. Every lesson also includes a weekly affirmation in the "I am" format, grounding the teachings in personal empowerment and spiritual growth.

The curriculum complements our Sunday morning structure, which includes mindfulness practices, prayer, meditation, and storytelling. Additionally, each month features a dedicated teen lesson plan, ensuring that older youth are engaged with age-appropriate, thought-provoking material that aligns with the monthly themes.

Holidays and celebrations are thoughtfully woven into the curriculum, connecting special events like Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Mother's Day, and Halloween with Unity teachings. These moments add excitement and relevance, fostering a deeper connection between spiritual principles and everyday life.

By providing this comprehensive and flexible framework, we aim to inspire our youth to explore their divine potential and deepen their connection to the principles of Unity and the world around them.

Love and Light,
Unity of Oak Park: Youth & Family Ministries Team

2025 Monthly Themes

January: Power of Life	July: Power of Power
February: Power of Understanding	August: Power of Imagination
March: Power of Release	September: Power of Wisdom
April: Power of Faith	October: Power of Order
May: Power of Love	November: Power of Strength
June: Power of Willingness	December: Power of Zeal

2025 Weekly Themes

Jan 05, 2025	New Beginnings (New Year's Day themed)
Jan 12, 2025	Embracing Life's Possibilities
Jan 19, 2025	Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Equality and Life for All)
Jan 26, 2025	Celebrating Life
Feb 02, 2025	Compassion and Empathy (Valentine's Day themed)
Feb 09, 2025	Understanding God's Love
Feb 16, 2025	Understanding Others (Presidents' Day themed)
Feb 23, 2025	Understanding and Forgiveness
Mar 02, 2025	Letting Go of Fear (Lent themed)
Mar 09, 2025	Letting Go of Past Hurts
Mar 16, 2025	Releasing Attachments (St. Patrick's Day themed)
Mar 23, 2025	Releasing Old Beliefs

Mar 30, 2025	Releasing Fears and Embracing Trust
Apr 06, 2025	Trusting in God's Plan (Easter themed)
Apr 13, 2025	Believing in the Unseen
Apr 20, 2025	Resurrection and New Beginnings (Easter)
Apr 27, 2025	Faith and Strength
May 04, 2025	Loving Yourself
May 11, 2025	Loving Others (Mother's Day themed)
May 18, 2025	God's Love for Us
May 25, 2025	Sharing Love with the World
Jun 01, 2025	Willingness to Change
Jun 08, 2025	Willingness to Serve (Father's Day themed)
Jun 15, 2025	Willingness to Learn
Jun 22, 2025	Willingness to Be Open
Jun 29, 2025	Embracing Willingness in Action
Jul 06, 2025	Recognizing Our Inner Power (Independence Day themed)
Jul 13, 2025	Power Through Faith
Jul 20, 2025	Power of Prayer
Jul 27, 2025	Power to Serve
Aug 03, 2025	Imagination as a Divine Gift
Aug 10, 2025	Imagination for Problem Solving
Aug 17, 2025	Imagination and Faith
Aug 24, 2025	Imagination to Serve
Aug 31, 2025	Celebrating Creativity

Sep 07, 2025	Seeking Wisdom
Sep 14, 2025	Wisdom Through Experience
Sep 21, 2025	Wisdom from Others
Sep 28, 2025	Acting with Wisdom
Oct 05, 2025	Order in the Environment
Oct 12, 2025	Order in Our Minds
Oct 19, 2025	Order in Our Actions
Oct 26, 2025	The Order of the Seasons (Halloween themed)
Nov 02, 2025	Inner Strength Through Gratitude
Nov 09, 2025	Strength Through Faith
Nov 16, 2025	Strength to Serve
Nov 23, 2025	Strength Through Prayer (Thanksgiving themed)
Nov 30, 2025	Embracing Inner Strength
Dec 07, 2025	Zeal for God's Plan
Dec 14, 2025	Zeal for Love
Dec 21, 2025	Zeal for Giving
Dec 28, 2025	Zeal for the New Year

January: The Power of Life

- ★ January focuses on the vitality of life, embracing new beginnings, and celebrating the divine gift of life that is constantly flowing through us. With New Year's Day, we look at fresh starts, and with Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we honor the power of life and equality for all. The activities encourage children, teens, and families to reflect on their goals, values, and the importance of life in all forms.

Week 1 (January 5, 2025): New Beginnings (New Year's Day themed)

- **Activity:** New Year's Resolutions Collage: Children will create a vision board or collage reflecting their hopes and goals for the year ahead. This activity helps them imagine the possibilities for growth and new experiences in the year to come.
- **Scripture:** Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-31): This story teaches that life is a fresh start, just as God created the world with purpose. Discuss how every new year is an opportunity for new beginnings and the chance to embrace life with enthusiasm.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Lion and the Mouse* (Aesop's Fable): Life's interconnectedness, even the smallest actions matter; Compassion and kindness have far-reaching effects.
- **Affirmation:** "I am open to new beginnings and embrace the life ahead."

Week 2 (January 12, 2025): Embracing Life's Possibilities

- **Activity:** Life Celebration Circle: Children will sit in a circle and share one thing that brings them joy and energy in life, allowing them to celebrate the fullness of life.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Heals the Blind (John 9:1-12): This story shows how Jesus gives new sight, representing new beginnings and the fullness of life that is available through faith.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde: Life and love are nurtured by sharing; Opening your heart allows life to flourish.
- **Affirmation:** "I embrace life's possibilities with an open heart."

Week 3 (January 19, 2025): Honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Equality and Life for All)

- **Activity:** I Have a Dream: Children will listen to a brief excerpt of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and then create their own "dream" for the world. They will draw or write about a dream where everyone is treated with equality and respect.
- **Scripture:** The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This story highlights kindness and the importance of loving all people, regardless of differences, aligning with the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of equality and justice for all.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Elephant and the Ant* (African Folktale): All lives matter, no matter their size; We all have a role in life, no matter our strength.
- **Affirmation:** "I honor all life and treat everyone with love and respect."

Week 4 (January 26, 2025): Celebrating Life

- **Activity:** Life Celebration Garden: Children will plant a seed in a small pot, symbolizing life's growth and potential. Discuss how just like the seed, we all have the potential for new life, hope, and growth each day.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Raises Lazarus (John 11:1-44): The resurrection of Lazarus shows how life is always being renewed, and we have the power to grow and thrive, no matter the circumstances.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein: Life is about selflessness and giving; giving without expectation brings life and joy to others.
- **Affirmation:** "I honor the gift of life and embrace the growth it brings."

January Family Engagement - Family Activity

- Life Celebration Tree: Each family member will write down something they want to celebrate or honor about life (e.g., personal growth, a positive change, a blessing) and hang it on a "Life Celebration Tree." The tree can be made from branches, a poster, or even a physical plant. At the end of the month, the family can reflect on all the ways life has been celebrated and honor the power of new beginnings.

January Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Teens share one thing they are excited about in the new year or one thing they hope to achieve.
 - Meditation: Guide the teens through a brief meditation to center them on their life force and to visualize a fulfilling year ahead, full of vitality and purpose.
- **Scripture:**
 - The Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-31): This story illustrates how God's creation is full of life, possibility, and purpose. Discuss how the new year offers us the chance to create, grow, and embrace the life God has given us.
 - Jesus Raises Lazarus (John 11:1-44): This story of resurrection and renewal mirrors the new life we can experience in the year ahead.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - How do you plan to embrace new beginnings in this new year?
 - What does it mean to live a life full of purpose and vitality?
 - How does Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for equality influence how we view life?
- **Activity:**
 - Goal Setting with Faith: Teens will write down three personal goals they would like to achieve in the coming year, along with how they can tap into God's guidance and power to help them accomplish these goals.
- **Reflection:**
 - Journal Prompt: "What are the dreams or goals you have for this year, and how can you live your life in alignment with your purpose?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the gift of life and new beginnings. May we embrace each day with vitality and purpose, and may we honor all life through our actions. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I embrace each day with purpose, vitality, and love."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to reflect on the importance of fresh starts and new beginnings. Remind them that each day offers the opportunity to start anew and live with purpose.*

February: The Power of Understanding

- ★ February focuses on the power of understanding—cultivating compassion, empathy, and the ability to truly listen to others. The month includes Valentine’s Day, which is a celebration of love and kindness, and Presidents’ Day, which offers an opportunity to reflect on leadership, wisdom, and understanding different perspectives. Activities encourage children, teens, and families to reflect on their goals, values, and the importance of understanding themselves, each other, and the world around them.

Week 1 (February 2, 2025): Compassion and Empathy (Valentine’s Day themed)

- **Activity:** Heart-to-Heart Letters: Children will write a letter to someone they care about, expressing their love, kindness, and appreciation. They will then share their letters with the class or send them out. This activity helps them practice understanding and showing affection.
- **Scripture:** The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This story teaches the value of helping others, even when they are different from us. Discuss how showing compassion is an important way to demonstrate understanding.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Golden Goose* (Fairy Tale): Understanding and kindness create unexpected rewards; generosity and understanding can lead to great things.
- **Affirmation:** “I am loving and understanding to others.”

Week 2 (February 9, 2025): Understanding God’s Love

- **Activity:** God’s Love Letters: Children will write letters to themselves, imagining God’s unconditional love and support for them. This exercise emphasizes understanding that God’s love is always with us, no matter what.
- **Scripture:** The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32): This story demonstrates God’s forgiveness and love. Discuss how understanding God’s love helps us forgive ourselves and others.
- **Alternative Story :** *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen: Understanding of self and others; true beauty is found in self-acceptance and understanding.
- **Affirmation:** “I am loved by God, and I share that love with others.”

Week 3 (February 16, 2025): Understanding Others (Presidents’ Day themed)

- **Activity:** Leaders and Understanding: In honor of Presidents’ Day, children will learn about how great leaders—like Presidents Abraham Lincoln and George Washington—showed understanding toward others, even in difficult times. They will then discuss how they can show understanding and leadership in their own lives.
- **Scripture:** Moses and the Exodus (Exodus 14:10-31): Moses led the people with great understanding and compassion, even when they faced adversity. Discuss how leadership and understanding are tied together.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Two Frogs* (Aesop’s Fable): Understanding that perspectives differ; approaching challenges with a positive mindset can lead to success.
- **Affirmation:** “I am a compassionate leader who understands others.”

Week 4 (February 23, 2025): Understanding and Forgiveness

- **Activity:** Forgiveness Stones: Children will choose a stone to represent a person or situation they need to forgive. They will write their feelings on paper and place it under the stone as a symbolic gesture of letting go.
- **Scripture:** Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 45:1-15): Joseph forgives his brothers for selling him into slavery, showing deep understanding and compassion. Discuss how understanding and forgiveness work together to heal relationships.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Wise Old Owl* (Fable): Understanding wisdom; wisdom comes from patience and observation, not just experience.
- **Affirmation:** "I understand others and forgive as God forgives me."

February Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Understanding in Action:** For the month of February, each family member will perform a weekly act of kindness or understanding for another family member. At the end of the month, the family will reflect on how these actions helped them connect more deeply and understand each other better.

February Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a time when they experienced or showed compassion or understanding in the past week.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a meditation on opening their hearts to understanding and compassion for others, especially those they may find difficult to understand.
- **Scripture:**
 - The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32): Discuss the unconditional love and forgiveness that God offers, and how we can offer the same understanding to ourselves and others.
 - Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-26): This story shows how Jesus understood the needs of a woman from a different background and gave her the opportunity to transform her life. Discuss how understanding others' perspectives can create transformative relationships.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does it mean to truly understand someone?
 - How can you cultivate compassion for others who are different from you?
 - How does understanding God's love affect how we treat others?
- **Activity:**
 - Perspective-Taking Exercise: Teens will pair up and take turns telling a story from their life, while the other person listens without interrupting. Then, the listener will reflect back what they heard, practicing true understanding and empathy.
- **Reflection:**
 - Journal Prompt: "What is one area of your life where you could show more understanding? How can you work toward deeper compassion and forgiveness in that situation?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for giving us hearts to understand and forgive. May we always lead with compassion and offer understanding to those in need. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I am a compassionate listener and understanding of others."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to practice patience when listening to others and remind them that understanding often requires more than just hearing—it requires an open heart.*

March: The Power of Release

- ★ March focuses on the power of release—letting go of things that no longer serve us, whether it's old habits, fears, or grudges. Through the journey of Lent, we explore how release brings freedom and spiritual growth. St. Patrick's Day offers an opportunity to reflect on transformation, embracing new beginnings, and trusting in God's guidance. The activities encourage children, teens, and families to understand how releasing what no longer serves them allows them to grow closer to God and embrace transformation.

Week 1 (March 2, 2025): Letting Go of Fear (Lent themed)

- **Activity:** Fear Release Paper: Children will write down a fear or worry they'd like to release on a piece of paper. They will then ceremoniously tear it up, symbolizing the letting go of those fears. Afterward, discuss how trusting in God's plan helps bring peace.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41): In this story, Jesus calms the storm, showing how faith in God can calm our fears and bring peace during challenging times.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Story of the Two Wolves* (Cherokee Legend): Release the negativity to feed the good within; we can choose what we feed in ourselves, positive or negative.
- **Affirmation:** "I release my fears to God and trust in His plan."

Week 2 (March 9, 2025): Letting Go of Past Hurts

- **Activity:** Forgiveness Stone: Children will choose a stone to represent a hurt they wish to release. After writing it on a piece of paper, they will place the paper under the stone as a symbolic gesture of forgiveness.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Forgives Peter (John 21:15-19): This story focuses on Jesus forgiving Peter after he denied Him, demonstrating the importance of forgiveness and the ability to release past wrongs.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Fisherman and His Wife* (Fairy Tale): Letting go of greed and excessive desire; Releasing unrealistic wants leads to true contentment.
- **Affirmation:** "I forgive myself and others, releasing all past hurts."

Week 3 (March 16, 2025): Releasing Attachments (St. Patrick's Day themed)

- **Activity:** Shamrock of Release: In honor of St. Patrick's Day, children will create a shamrock where each leaf represents something they are willing to release (e.g., fear, negativity, a bad habit). They will place their shamrocks on a release altar or in a designated "letting go" space.
- **Scripture:** The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27): This story highlights how letting go of attachments to material wealth can open the door to spiritual growth and deeper connections with God. Discuss how release helps us focus on things that truly matter.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Mouse and the Frog* (Aesop's Fable): Releasing selfishness for the benefit of others; selfless actions often bring great rewards.
- **Affirmation:** "I am free from attachment and open to God's will."

Week 4 (March 23, 2025): Releasing Old Beliefs

- **Activity:** Mindset Shift Exercise: Children will write down a limiting belief they hold (e.g., "I can't do that") and then rewrite it as an empowering affirmation (e.g., "I can achieve anything with God's help").
- **Scripture:** The Blind Man Healed (John 9:1-12): In this story, Jesus heals a blind man, teaching us that releasing limited views of ourselves can allow us to see new possibilities and perspectives.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Oak and the Reed* (Aesop's Fable): Release rigidity and embrace flexibility; strength comes from the ability to bend in difficult times.
- **Affirmation:** "I release limiting beliefs and see new possibilities."

Week 5 (March 30, 2025): Releasing Fears and Embracing Trust

- **Activity:** Trust Ball Toss: Children will form a circle and pass a soft ball around. Each child will name one fear or worry they are ready to release. Afterward, they will take a deep breath together and say, "I release my fears and trust in the flow of life."
- **Scripture:** *Jesus Calms the Storm* (Mark 4:35-41): This story shows how the disciples learn to release their fears and trust in Jesus, even in the face of a frightening storm.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld: A young child learns to let go of fears and embrace trust with the love and support of others.
- **Affirmation:** "I release my fears and trust in the flow of life."

March Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Spring Cleaning for the Heart:** As a family, each member will share something they are ready to release—whether it's a bad habit, a past hurt, or an old belief. They will write these things down and then find a creative way to let them go—maybe by tossing them into a "release box," burning them safely, or symbolically passing them onto God through prayer. This activity symbolizes the process of releasing the old and making room for the new.

March Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a moment from the week when they let go of something that no longer served them—whether it’s a fear, an old belief, or a negative thought.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a meditation focusing on the act of release, allowing them to visualize letting go of what no longer serves them and making space for new growth.
- **Scripture:**
 - Story: Jesus Calms the Storm (Mark 4:35-41): Focus on how trusting in God can calm our inner storms and help us release fears. Discuss how letting go of fear allows us to step into our power and move forward.
 - Alternate Story: Jesus Heals the Blind Man (John 9:1-12): This story demonstrates the power of release in overcoming limited thinking. Discuss how letting go of old beliefs can lead to clarity and new possibilities.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What is something in your life that you’re ready to release?
 - How does fear hold you back, and how can you let it go?
 - How can you embrace transformation in your life by releasing old beliefs or attachments?
- **Activity:** Release and Rebuild: Teens will write down something they want to release (e.g., an old belief, habit, or fear). Then, they will write down an affirmation or a goal that they want to replace it with. This will be a symbolic act of rebuilding their mindset. They can keep their written affirmations in a “Release and Rebuild” journal.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: “What are you ready to release in your life, and how will it create space for new growth?”
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: “Thank you, God, for the strength to release what no longer serves us. May we embrace transformation and trust in the new beginnings you have for us. Amen.”
 - Affirmation: “I am free to release what no longer serves me and embrace new possibilities.”

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to share their experiences of doubt or fear they may have, and remind them that faith is a journey. Guide them in understanding that faith is not always about certainty, but trusting even when things are unclear.*

April: The Power of Faith

- ★ April focuses on the power of faith—trusting in God’s plan, believing in the unseen, and holding onto hope even in challenging times. Through the focus on Easter, we explore how faith transforms our lives and allows us to experience new beginnings, healing, and resurrection. The activities emphasize building faith, the power of belief, and the importance of staying strong in our trust of God.

Week 1 (April 6, 2025): Trusting in God’s Plan (Easter themed)

- **Activity:** Faith in Action: Children will create a “faith jar,” where each week they add a note of something they are trusting God for or an affirmation of faith. This represents how small steps of faith can build over time.
- **Scripture:** Abraham’s Faith (Genesis 12:1-4): This story shows how Abraham trusted God’s plan, even when he didn’t know what the future held. Discuss how trusting in God brings peace, even in uncertainty.
- **Alternative Story:** *Stone Soup* (Traditional Folk Story): Faith in others can create abundance; working together with faith leads to unexpected blessings.
- **Affirmation:** “I trust in God’s plan for my life.”

Week 2 (April 13, 2025): Believing in the Unseen

- **Activity:** Faith Walk: Children will participate in a faith walk, where one child will be blindfolded, and another will guide them through the space. This symbolizes the concept of trusting in what we cannot see but know to be true.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Heals the Blind Man (John 9:1-12): This story shows how Jesus healed a blind man, illustrating the power of faith and believing in what we cannot yet see.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Little Red Hen* (Folk Tale): Faith in hard work; when we put in the effort, our faith and hard work bring results.
- **Affirmation:** “I believe in the things I cannot see and trust in God’s promises.”

Week 3 (April 20, 2025): Resurrection and New Beginnings (Easter)

- **Activity:** Easter Egg Resurrection: Children will decorate eggs with messages of new life and resurrection. Afterward, they will crack the eggs open to reveal a small prize inside, symbolizing the new life that Jesus’ resurrection brings.
- **Scripture:** The Resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:1-12): The resurrection is the ultimate symbol of faith and hope. Discuss how Jesus’ resurrection shows us that even when life seems dark, faith brings new life.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Fox and the Grapes* (Aesop’s Fable): Acceptance and learning to deal with disappointment; sometimes, we must accept that we cannot have everything we want, and that it’s okay to move on without resentment.
- **Affirmation:** “I am resurrected in faith, and my new life begins today.”

Week 4 (April 27, 2025): Faith and Strength

- **Activity:** Strength Through Faith Bracelets: Children will create bracelets with beads or symbols that represent their faith and inner strength. This serves as a reminder of their faith journey and the strength that comes from trusting in God.
- **Scripture:** David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50): This story shows how faith in God gives us the strength to overcome challenges. David trusted God to defeat Goliath, and his faith made him victorious.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Fisherman and the Genie* (Arabian Folktale): Faith in wisdom and patience; trusting the process can lead to great rewards, even in difficult situations.
- **Affirmation:** "I am strong through my faith in God."

April Family Engagement - Family Activity

- Faith Journey Tree: Each family member will create a "Faith Journey Tree" where they add a leaf or symbol each week that represents a step of faith or trust they are taking in their lives. At the end of the month, the family will reflect on how their faith has grown throughout the month and how God has been guiding them.

April Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a time when they felt their faith helped them overcome a challenge or guide them through a tough situation.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a meditation on faith, encouraging them to focus on how faith has transformed their life and how they can continue to trust in God's guidance.
- **Scripture:**
 - Story: Abraham's Faith (Genesis 12:1-4): Discuss how Abraham's faith shaped his life and the blessings he received because of it. Ask the teens to reflect on how they can trust God in their own life and what it looks like to have faith in action.
 - Alternate Story: The Resurrection of Jesus (Luke 24:1-12): Focus on the resurrection as a symbol of new life. Discuss how faith in God's power allows us to experience transformation and new beginnings.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - How do you define faith in your life?
 - What role does faith play in your decisions and actions?
 - How can we trust in God's plan, even when we don't understand it?
- **Activity:** Faith Reflection Journal: Teens will write a journal entry reflecting on a moment in their life when they felt their faith was tested, and how they saw God's hand guiding them through that situation. They will then write an affirmation of faith moving forward.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What is an area of your life where you need more faith, and how can you trust God with that situation?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the gift of faith. May we always trust in Your plan, knowing that You lead us toward our highest good. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I trust in God's plan for me, and my faith gives me strength."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to remember that faith is not about having all the answers; it's about trusting in God's timing and plan, even when it's unclear.*

May: The Power of Love

- ★ May focuses on the power of love—the transformative energy of love that God has for us, and how we are called to share that love with others. The month includes Mother’s Day, which celebrates the nurturing and unconditional love of mothers, and encourages children, teens, and families to recognize the importance of love in all aspects of life. The activities will help reinforce that love is not just an emotion, but a powerful force for change and healing.

Week 1 (May 4, 2025): Loving Yourself

- **Activity:** Self-Love Mirror Exercise: Children will stand in front of a mirror and say three things they love about themselves. This helps them affirm their worth and reinforces the message that self-love is a spiritual practice.
- **Scripture:** The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7): This story shows that God loves each one of us individually, even if we stray away. Discuss how we should also love and care for ourselves in that way.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams: Love makes us real and transforms us; true love makes us our best selves.
- **Affirmation:** “I am worthy of love, and I love myself.”

Week 2 (May 11, 2025): Loving Others (Mother’s Day themed)

- **Activity:** Kindness Chain: Children will create a kindness chain, where each link represents an act of kindness they do for someone else. This activity helps them understand that love is expressed through action, and the more we give, the more love we receive.
- **Scripture:** The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This story teaches us to love our neighbors, even when they are different from us. Discuss how loving others, especially in times of need, reflects God’s love.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Princess and the Pea* (Fairy Tale): Love requires sensitivity and understanding; True love recognizes depth and uniqueness.
- **Affirmation:** “I am kind and loving to others.”

Week 3 (May 18, 2025): God’s Love for Us

- **Activity:** God’s Love Letter: Children will write a letter to themselves from God, expressing unconditional love, support, and encouragement. This reinforces the idea that God’s love is always present and available to us.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-14): This story demonstrates God’s abundant love, providing for everyone’s needs. Discuss how God’s love is always sufficient and available, no matter what.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Lion, the Bear, and the Fox* (Russian Folktale): The power of love and loyalty; love involves loyalty, even when the situation isn’t ideal.
- **Affirmation:** “I am loved and cared for by God.”

Week 4 (May 25, 2025): Sharing Love with the World

- **Activity:** Love in Action: Children will brainstorm ways they can share love in their community, whether through small acts of kindness, volunteering, or simply being there for others. They will choose one action to take during the week.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17): This story demonstrates the ultimate expression of love and service. Discuss how we can serve and love others humbly, just as Jesus did for His disciples.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde: The importance of opening our hearts and sharing with others; the more we give, the more joy and fulfillment we find in life.
- **Affirmation:** "I share love with the world, and my love makes a difference."

May Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Acts of Love Challenge:** For the month, each family member can perform at least one random act of kindness each week. These acts can be small, like helping a neighbor, writing a thank-you note, or simply listening attentively. At the end of the month, the family can gather to share their experiences and reflect on the power of love in action.

May Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares one act of love or kindness they've experienced or expressed in the past week and how it made them feel.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a meditation on love, imagining themselves surrounded by God's love. Ask them to feel that love filling their hearts and extending to others.
- **Scripture:**
 - Story: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): Discuss the themes of compassion, love, and service. Ask teens how they can show love to others, especially those who are different from them or who might need help.
 - Alternate Story: Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-14): This story demonstrates the abundance of God's love. Discuss how love can be an abundant resource that multiplies when shared with others.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - How can you express love in your daily life?
 - What does God's unconditional love mean to you?
 - How can you serve others and show love in ways that go beyond just words?
- **Activity:** Love in Action Challenge: Teens will write down five ways they can show love to others (e.g., helping someone in need, sending a kind message, volunteering). They will choose one action to complete during the week and share it with the group afterward.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What is one way you can express more love in your life, and how do you think it will change the way you feel and relate to others?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for Your endless love. May we reflect that love in all we do, sharing it with others and spreading kindness in the world. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I am love, and I share love with the world."

*** Facilitator Note - Encourage teens to consider love not just as an emotion, but as a powerful action they can choose to express in every moment. Remind them that love is transformative for both the giver and the receiver.*

June: The Power of Willingness

- ★ June focuses on the power of willingness—being open to change, growth, and service. It's about having the willingness to step out of our comfort zones, trust God's guidance, and be of service to others. Father's Day also highlights the importance of the strength, support, and wisdom that fathers (and father figures) provide, reinforcing the theme of willingness in relationships and life's challenges.

Week 1 (June 1, 2025): Willingness to Change

- **Activity:** Willingness Tree: Children will create a tree (either a drawing or a real plant in a pot) where each family member adds a leaf or branch whenever they take on something new or step outside their comfort zone. This visual reminder will grow throughout the month as children embrace new opportunities for growth.
- **Scripture:** Peter Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-33): This story demonstrates Peter's willingness to step out of the boat and trust Jesus. It's a great example of how willingness can lead to miraculous results.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper: Determination and persistence in overcoming challenges; with belief in ourselves and the willingness to try, we can overcome any obstacle, no matter how big.
- **Affirmation:** "I am willing to step out in faith and embrace new possibilities."

Week 2 (June 8, 2025): Willingness to Serve (Father's Day themed)

- **Activity:** Helping Hands Project: Children will make handprints on a large piece of paper, each representing their willingness to serve others. In honor of Father's Day, they can also create a card or small project for their fathers or father figures to show appreciation for their support and love.
- **Scripture:** The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This story illustrates willingness to help and serve others, even when it's not convenient. It teaches that service to others is an expression of God's love.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Tortoise and the Hare* (Aesop's Fable): Steady effort and patience lead to success; slow and steady wins the race, and persistence is more important than speed or flash.
- **Affirmation:** "I am willing to serve others with love and kindness."

Week 3 (June 15, 2025): Willingness to Learn

- **Activity:** Learning Circle: Children will sit in a circle and share something new they learned that week. This could be a lesson from school, a fun fact, or something about God. The idea is to highlight the importance of being open to learning, whether it's new knowledge or spiritual wisdom.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Teaches the Disciples (Matthew 5:1-12): In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches the disciples important spiritual lessons. This story emphasizes the willingness to be open to new teachings that challenge and expand our understanding.

- **Alternative Story:** *The Crow and the Pitcher* (Aesop's Fable): Problem-solving and using creativity to overcome obstacles; when faced with challenges, we can often find creative solutions by thinking outside the box.
- **Affirmation:** "I am willing to learn and grow."

Week 4 (June 22, 2025): Willingness to Be Open

- **Activity:** Willingness Paper Wings: Children will decorate paper wings with words or symbols that represent their willingness to be open to God's guidance. Then, they'll imagine themselves soaring like birds, feeling the freedom that comes with willingness.
- **Scripture:** The Conversion of Saul (Acts 9:1-19): This story illustrates Saul's willingness to change and open his heart to God's call. It shows that transformation is possible when we are willing to change.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Fisherman and the Golden Fish* (Fairy Tale): The dangers of greed and the importance of being content; wanting too much can lead to loss, and being grateful for what we have brings happiness.
- **Affirmation:** "I am open to change and willing to follow God's path for me."

Week 5 (June 29, 2025): Embracing Willingness in Action

- **Activity:** The Willingness Challenge: Children will make a list of things they are willing to try that may be outside of their comfort zones (e.g., helping someone, speaking up, trying a new activity). They will choose one thing to do during the week and share how it felt to step out of their comfort zones.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Sends the Disciples (Matthew 28:16-20): In this story, Jesus sends His disciples out to spread His message, showing the willingness to go forth and serve. It's a call to action that reflects the power of willingness in action.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Little Red Hen* (Fable): The value of willingness and taking initiative; being willing to take action can lead to success, even when others are unwilling to help.
- **Affirmation:** "I am willing to act on what I believe and step into new opportunities."

June Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Willingness Tree:** Create a "Willingness Tree" in the family home. Each family member adds a new leaf every time they take on something outside their comfort zone. This can include trying a new activity, helping someone in need, or stepping up to a challenge. At the end of the month, the tree will be full of branches symbolizing everyone's willingness to grow.

June Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a moment from the week when they felt a sense of willingness to try something new or help someone.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a short meditation focusing on the concept of willingness. Encourage them to think about areas in their life where they can be more open to change or new opportunities.
- **Scripture:**
 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): Discuss the idea of willingness to serve others without expectation, even when it's difficult. Reflect on how service leads to personal growth and spiritual depth.
 - The Conversion of Saul (Acts 9:1-19): This story shows the profound transformation that happens when we are willing to listen to God's calling, even when it leads us down an unexpected path.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does it mean to be willing in your life?
 - How can willingness lead to personal transformation?
 - How can you become more open to change, both in your spiritual life and in your daily life?
- **Activity:** Willingness Reflection Board: Teens will create a "Willingness Reflection Board" where they write down areas in their life where they need to be more willing. This could include things they want to change or areas where they want to be more open. Afterward, they will share what they wrote and how they plan to embrace willingness in those areas.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What is one area of your life where you need to be more willing, and how can you take steps toward that willingness?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for giving us the courage to be willing. Help us stay open to Your guidance and embrace the changes that lead us closer to You. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I am willing to embrace new opportunities and trust in God's plan for me."

*** Facilitator Note - Encourage teens to view willingness not as an act of perfection, but as a process of being open to change and growth. Remind them that willingness is a lifelong journey.*

July: The Power of Power

- ★ July is about the power of inner strength—the divine power we all have through God to overcome challenges, achieve our goals, and serve others. Independence Day is also a key focus this month, emphasizing freedom and the power to live according to our beliefs and values. Activities will help children, teens, and families explore their own sources of strength, how to tap into God’s power, and how to stand strong in faith.

Week 1 (July 6, 2025): Recognizing Our Inner Power (Independence Day themed)

- **Activity:** Powerful Affirmations: Children will write and decorate personal affirmations that reflect their inner strength. These affirmations will be displayed in the classroom or at home as a reminder of the divine power they carry.
- **Scripture:** David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50): This story teaches that God gives us the power to overcome great challenges. David’s faith in God gave him the strength to defeat Goliath. Discuss how we all have divine power within us.
- **Alternative Story:** Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock (West African Folklore): Cleverness and using intelligence to overcome challenges; wit and intelligence can be as powerful as strength when solving problems.
- **Affirmation:** “I am strong and full of divine power.”

Week 2 (July 13, 2025): Power Through Faith

- **Activity:** Power Walk: Children will walk in a circle, imagining they are walking with God, feeling His strength guiding their steps. Afterward, discuss how faith in God gives them the power to overcome challenges.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Heals (Mark 2:1-12): This story shows how Jesus’ power, rooted in faith, healed the paralyzed man, teaching us that faith in God’s power can heal/restore.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs* (Aesop’s Fable): The consequences of greed and the importance of appreciating what we have; we should be thankful for what we have and avoid greed, as it can lead to losing everything.
- **Affirmation:** “I am empowered through my faith in God.”

Week 3 (July 20, 2025): Power of Prayer

- **Activity:** Prayer Hands: Children will trace their hands on paper, and inside each finger, they will write something they are praying for or something they feel they need strength for. This helps them connect prayer to their inner power.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46): In this story, Jesus demonstrates the power of prayer in seeking strength from God. Prayer connects us to divine power and guides us through difficult moments.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Strongest Man in the World* (fable): Strength is not always about physical power but about inner strength and resilience; true strength comes from character and determination, not just physical ability.
- **Affirmation:** “I draw on God’s power through prayer.”

Week 4 (July 27, 2025): Power to Serve

- **Activity:** Helping Hands Project: Children will participate in a service project, whether it's helping clean up a local park, donating items to charity, or helping with a community event. This emphasizes the power we have to help others.
- **Scripture:** The Feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-14): This story illustrates the power of service. Jesus showed that we can use our resources and strength to serve others, multiplying the impact of our efforts.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* (Aesop's fable): Honesty and the consequences of dishonesty; telling the truth is vital; when we lie, we risk losing the trust of others.
- **Affirmation:** "I use my power to serve others with love."

July Family Engagement - Family Activity

- Helping Hands Project: The family can plan and participate in a service activity together. This could be helping a neighbor, volunteering at a local shelter, or cleaning up a park. Afterward, the family can reflect on how using their collective power for good brought them closer together and made a positive impact.

July Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a moment from the week when they felt strong or empowered, whether it was overcoming a challenge, helping someone, or standing firm in their beliefs.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens in a brief meditation where they focus on their inner strength, visualizing divine light filling them with power to face the week's challenges.
- **Scripture:**
 - David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50): This story shows how divine power and faith in God gave David the strength to defeat Goliath. Discuss how we all have access to this same power through our faith.
 - Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12): This story demonstrates the power of faith and how it activates divine strength, leading to healing and transformation.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - How do you recognize the power of God within you?
 - In what ways can you use your inner power to overcome challenges in your life?
 - How does prayer help you tap into divine strength?
- **Activity:** Empowerment Reflection Board: Teens will create a "Reflection Board" where they write down situations or challenges that have made them feel empowered by their faith. They will also include a quote or scripture that reminds them of their inner strength. This board serves as a reminder of the power they carry.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "When have you experienced God's power in your life? How did it shape the outcome of a challenge or a decision?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the power you give us to face life's challenges and help others. May we always tap into Your divine strength and be a force for good in the world. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I am empowered by God's strength and use it to serve others."

*** Facilitator Note - Remind teens that power doesn't always look like physical strength. The true power is found in faith, service, and using our abilities to positively influence others.*

August: The Power of Imagination

- ★ August focuses on the power of imagination—the ability to visualize new possibilities, create, and dream. It's about seeing beyond the present moment and trusting in the creative potential God has given us. Back-to-School is also a key theme for this month, encouraging children and teens to use their imagination to approach learning with excitement, curiosity, and openness. As the summer ends, we reflect on how imagination can help us transform, grow, and prepare for new seasons of life.

Week 1 (August 3, 2025): Imagination as a Divine Gift

- **Activity:** Create Your Dream World: Children will draw or create a collage of their dream world, using magazines, colored paper, or any craft materials. They'll be encouraged to imagine a world where everything they love exists, emphasizing the power of their imagination to shape their reality.
- **Scripture:** Joseph's Dream (Genesis 37:1-11): Joseph's story shows how imagination and dreams were part of God's plan for his life. Discuss how God gives us dreams and visions to guide us toward our purpose.
- **Alternative Story:** *Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi: The importance of being truthful and the power of change; we can transform ourselves through truthfulness, and the process of change requires honesty with ourselves.
- **Affirmation:** "I am full of creativity and divine imagination."

Week 2 (August 10, 2025): Imagination for Problem Solving

- **Activity:** Build Your Future: Children will use blocks, Legos, or any construction materials to create something that represents their future dreams—whether it's a building, a landscape, or a new invention. They'll then discuss how their imagination helps them think of creative solutions.
- **Scripture:** Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall (Nehemiah 2:17): This story shows how Nehemiah used vision and imagination to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem. It demonstrates how imagination can be a tool for overcoming challenges and making a positive impact.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Magic Paintbrush* (Chinese folktale): The power of imagination and using our gifts for good; our creativity and imagination can make the world a better place when used to help others.
- **Affirmation:** "I am a creative problem-solver, using my imagination to build a better future."

Week 3 (August 17, 2025): Imagination and Faith

- **Activity:** Imagination Prayer Time: Children will sit quietly and imagine a place where they feel safe, peaceful, and loved. They'll then pray in that place, asking God to help them imagine a life filled with joy and faith.

- **Scripture:** Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-14): In this story, Jesus imagines a way to feed the crowd, despite the lack of food. Discuss how imagination and faith work together to create miracles.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Andersen: Hope and the power of dreams, even in the face of hardship; even in the darkest times, our imagination and dreams can bring us comfort and help us see a brighter world.
- **Affirmation:** "I imagine with faith, and my dreams can come true with God's help."

Week 4 (August 24, 2025): Imagination to Serve

- **Activity:** Create a Dream Service Plan: Children will use their imagination to design a service project or way they can help others. They'll draw their ideas and discuss how their creative plans can make a difference in the world.
- **Scripture:** The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This story highlights the power of imagination in thinking beyond what is expected and finding creative ways to serve others.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams: Love's power to transform and bring new possibilities; true love turns us into something real, and through love, we discover our fullest potential.
- **Affirmation:** "I use my imagination to serve and help others."

Week 5 (August 31, 2025): Celebrating Creativity

- **Activity:** Imagination Art Show: Children will showcase their creative projects (dream worlds, service ideas, etc.) in an art show. This can be a celebration of their imagination and the ways they've used it throughout the month.
- **Scripture:** The Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-31): The story of creation shows that God's first act was an act of imagination—creating the world out of nothing. Discuss how we are made in God's image, and how our creativity reflects His divine nature.
- **Alternative Story:** *Frederick* by Leo Lionni: Celebrate creativity as an essential contribution to the community; creative thinking and artistic expression are just as important as practical work.
- **Affirmation:** "I celebrate my creativity as a divine gift."

August Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Create a Dream Board Together:** The family can create a large, collective vision board, where each member contributes images, words, or symbols that reflect their dreams, hopes, and aspirations. This can be an ongoing family project that encourages creativity and shared vision for the future. At the end of the month, families can gather to reflect on how their dreams are taking shape.

August Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a recent experience where they used their imagination to solve a problem or create something new. This will help get them thinking about the power of imagination in their daily lives.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a short visualization where they imagine their future—what they want to accomplish, how they want to grow, and how they can use their creativity for good.
- **Scripture:**
 - Joseph's Dream (Genesis 37:1-11): Discuss how God spoke to Joseph through dreams, and how imagination can be a tool for divine inspiration and guidance. Ask the teens how they can use their imagination to envision their future with God's guidance.
 - Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand (John 6:1-14): This story demonstrates how faith and imagination work together to create solutions. Discuss how we can use our imagination not only for personal gain but also to meet the needs of others.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - How do you use your imagination to solve problems or create new things?
 - How can imagination help you see possibilities when faced with challenges?
 - How do you think God uses your imagination to guide you in life?
- **Activity:** Create Your Future Vision: Teens will create a vision board for their future, using magazines, drawings, or other materials. This board will reflect what they want to achieve, dream about, or create in their lives. Discuss how their imagination can guide their actions toward those goals.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What is one area of your life where you want to use your imagination more? How can you begin to take action on your dreams?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the gift of imagination. May we use our creativity to serve others, solve problems, and live out our dreams. Help us see the world with a new perspective, guided by Your love. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I am a creative force, and I use my imagination to shape a positive future."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to understand that imagination is not just about daydreaming but also about finding creative solutions and stepping into their divine creativity to fulfill their potential.*

September: The Power of Wisdom

- ★ September focuses on the power of wisdom—gaining insight, discerning truth, and applying knowledge in meaningful ways. As the school year begins, it's the perfect time to reflect on how wisdom can guide our decisions and relationships. The theme emphasizes not only intellectual wisdom but also spiritual wisdom, which helps us navigate life with understanding, patience, and love. Back-to-School also ties in by encouraging children, teens, and families to approach the new year with wisdom and a willingness to learn and grow.

Week 1 (September 7, 2025): Seeking Wisdom

- **Activity:** Wisdom Treasure Hunt: Children will go on a treasure hunt around the room or outside, searching for items that represent wisdom (e.g., books, symbols, pictures). Afterward, they'll discuss what wisdom means to them and how we seek wisdom in our lives.
- **Scripture:** Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14): In this story, King Solomon asks God for wisdom to lead the people. Discuss how wisdom is a gift from God and how we can seek it in our daily lives.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Tortoise and the Hare* (Aesop's fable): The value of wisdom and patience; being wise and steady can lead to success, even when others rush or rely solely on speed.
- **Affirmation:** "I seek wisdom from God, and I trust in His guidance."

Week 2 (September 14, 2025): Wisdom Through Experience

- **Activity:** Experience Sharing Circle: Children will take turns sharing a life lesson they've learned, whether it's something from their own experience or something they've learned from others. This reinforces that wisdom can come from both our own experiences and from listening to others.
- **Scripture:** Joseph's Wisdom (Genesis 41:14-30): Joseph uses wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, helping Egypt prepare for a famine. Discuss how Joseph's wisdom came from God and how it helped him serve others.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Wise Old Owl* (Fable): The importance of careful thought and taking time to learn; wisdom comes from thinking deeply and listening before making decisions.
- **Affirmation:** "I learn from my experiences and grow in wisdom."

Week 3 (September 21, 2025): Wisdom from Others

- **Activity:** Wisdom Tree: Children will write down pieces of wisdom from family members, teachers, or mentors and hang them on a "wisdom tree" (could be a tree drawing or an actual tree outside). This shows how wisdom can come from the people around us.
- **Scripture:** Moses Receives the Ten Commandments (Exodus 19:16-20:21): This story shows how Moses received wisdom directly from God, which he shared with the people.

Discuss how wisdom is sometimes given directly from God but can also come through others.

- **Alternative Story:** *The Wise Rabbit* (African folktale): Using intelligence and knowledge to overcome challenges; wisdom and clever thinking can be more powerful than brute strength when solving problems.
- **Affirmation:** “I am open to receiving wisdom from others and from God.”

Week 4 (September 28, 2025): Acting with Wisdom

- **Activity:** Wise Choices Game: Children will be given scenarios (e.g., a problem at school, a situation with a friend) and must choose the wisest course of action from multiple options. This will help them understand how to apply wisdom to everyday situations.
- **Scripture:** The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27): This parable teaches that wisdom is about building a strong foundation—making wise choices that will help us weather life’s storms. Discuss how wisdom helps us make decisions that stand the test of time.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Farmer and the Stork* (Aesop’s fable): The importance of associations and understanding others; the people we surround ourselves with can influence our outcomes, and we must be mindful of our associations.
- **Affirmation:** “I make wise choices that lead to strong foundations in my life.”

September Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Wisdom Wall:** Each family member contributes a piece of wisdom or a life lesson they’ve learned, either from personal experience or from others. This can be written on cards or posted on a family “wisdom wall” (a bulletin board or wall space in the home). At the end of the month, the family can reflect on the lessons shared and discuss how wisdom has shaped their lives.

September Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a piece of wisdom they've learned, either from personal experience or someone they respect. This will help them connect with the theme and each other.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens in a short meditation on wisdom, inviting them to reflect on how they make decisions and how they can seek God's guidance in their lives.
- **Scripture:**
 - Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-14): Discuss Solomon's request for wisdom and how God granted him more than he asked for. Ask the teens how they might ask God for wisdom in their own lives and how they can apply that wisdom to their daily decisions.
 - The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-27): This parable shows how wisdom is about laying a firm foundation for our lives. Discuss how making wise decisions builds that foundation and prepares us for life's challenges.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does wisdom mean to you?
 - How do you discern what is wise in challenging situations?
 - How do you seek wisdom from God, and how do you know when you've found it?
- **Activity:** The Order of Priorities: Teens will create a list of their top priorities and organize them in order of importance. They will reflect on how they can align their daily actions with their highest priorities, creating a sense of order and purpose.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What areas of your life feel chaotic or unorganized, and how can you bring order to them? What does it mean to live intentionally with God's guidance?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the gift of wisdom. May we always seek Your guidance in our decisions and trust that Your wisdom leads us to a life of peace and purpose. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I trust in God's wisdom to guide my life and decisions."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to view wisdom not as something they need to "achieve" but as something to embrace and trust. Wisdom comes from both experience and divine guidance.*

October: The Power of Order

- ★ October is about the power of order—creating structure, harmony, and balance in our lives. This month encourages the practice of bringing order to our surroundings, thoughts, and actions, allowing us to feel grounded and focused. The theme also ties into Halloween and the Fall Season, which represent the beauty of change and transformation, and the importance of bringing order to our lives during transitions. The activities emphasize discipline, organization, and living intentionally.

Week 1 (October 5, 2025): Order in the Environment

- **Activity:** Organizing Our Space: Children will help organize their classroom or play area by categorizing items, putting things in their rightful place, and making the space feel calm and orderly. Discuss how order in our environment helps us feel peaceful and focused.
- **Scripture:** God Creates the World in Order (Genesis 1:1-31): This story shows how God created the world in an orderly fashion, bringing order out of chaos. Discuss how everything has a place and purpose in God's plan.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Twelve Dancing Princesses* (Fairy Tale): The importance of structure and balance; a balanced life, where everything has its place, leads to peace and harmony.
- **Affirmation:** "I create order in my environment, and I feel peaceful."

Week 2 (October 12, 2025): Order in Our Minds

- **Activity:** Mindful Breathing: Children will practice mindful breathing, focusing on their breath and clearing their minds. This will help them understand the importance of mental clarity and calmness. Discuss how having an orderly mind helps us make better decisions.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Clears the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13): This story shows how Jesus brought order to the temple by clearing out distractions and focusing on its true purpose. Discuss how creating mental and physical order can help us focus on what's truly important.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Elves and the Shoemaker* (Fairy Tale): The benefits of hard work and order in creating success; regular effort and order in our actions can bring about amazing results.
- **Affirmation:** "I create order in my mind and focus on what is important."

Week 3 (October 19, 2025): Order in Our Actions

- **Activity:** The Daily Schedule: Children will create a simple daily schedule, organizing their time for activities like school, play, meals, and rest. Discuss how having a routine helps us stay balanced and intentional with our time.

- **Scripture:** Manna from Heaven (Exodus 16:1-31): This story shows how God provided the Israelites with manna in an orderly way, giving them exactly what they needed each day. Discuss how order in our actions allows us to make the most of what God provides.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Honest Woodcutter* (fairy tale): Integrity and the value of honesty; being truthful and honest, even when no one is looking, brings reward and peace.
- **Affirmation:** "I use my time wisely and bring order to my actions."

Week 4 (October 26, 2025): The Order of the Seasons (Halloween themed)

- **Activity:** Seasonal Nature Walk: Children will go on a nature walk and observe the changes in the environment as the seasons transition. They will collect leaves, acorns, or other items that represent the beauty of order in nature. Afterward, they will create a Halloween-themed craft (like decorating pumpkins or creating autumn-themed art). Discuss how order in nature brings about the beautiful changes we see with the seasons.
- **Scripture:** The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9): This story shows how seeds, when planted in good soil, grow and produce fruit in an orderly manner. Discuss how order and care lead to growth and abundance.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Ant and the Grasshopper* (Aesop's fable): The value of planning and being prepared; hard work and planning ahead help us prepare for the future and avoid unnecessary struggles.
- **Affirmation:** "I embrace the order of nature and trust in God's plan for me."

October Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Order in Action:** The family will work together to organize a space in the home—whether it's the living room, a garden, or a family closet. As they organize, they will talk about the importance of creating order to feel peaceful and focused. Afterward, they'll reflect on how order helps them connect with God's purpose in their daily lives.

October Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a way they've brought order into their life recently, whether it's organizing their schedule, cleaning their space, or focusing their thoughts.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a brief meditation, focusing on breathing deeply and imagining their life becoming more organized and clear. Encourage them to visualize a peaceful, orderly mind and heart.
- **Scripture:**
 - God Creates the World in Order (Genesis 1:1-31): Discuss how God's creation was intentional and purposeful, bringing order to chaos. Ask the teens how they can bring more order into their own lives to reflect this divine order.
 - Jesus Clears the Temple (Matthew 21:12-13): This story illustrates the importance of clearing distractions and bringing order to a space to allow it to fulfill its true purpose. Discuss how we can apply this idea to our own lives, mentally, emotionally, and physically.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does it mean to you to live with order in your life?
 - How does having order in your environment help you feel more at peace?
 - How can you create more balance between your actions and your priorities?
- **Activity:** The Order of Priorities: Teens will create a list of their top priorities and organize them in order of importance. They will reflect on how they can align their daily actions with their highest priorities, creating a sense of order and purpose.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What areas of your life feel chaotic or unorganized, and how can you bring order to them? What does it mean to live intentionally with God's guidance?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the order and balance You bring into our lives. Help us create space for peace, focus, and clarity in our hearts and minds. May we align our actions with Your divine plan. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I bring order to my life and trust in God's divine plan for me."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to view order not as rigidity, but as a way to bring focus, clarity, and peace. Remind them that creating order is an ongoing process and that it can evolve as their lives change.*

November: The Power of Strength

- ★ November is all about the power of strength—drawing on the inner strength that God provides to face challenges, overcome obstacles, and serve others with grace and perseverance. The month focuses on the strength that comes from gratitude and community, in alignment with Thanksgiving. We reflect on how strength can be found in trusting God, expressing gratitude, and serving others. The activities will encourage children, teens, and families to recognize and cultivate their inner strength, particularly as they give thanks for their blessings and grow in their faith.

Week 1 (November 2, 2025): Inner Strength Through Gratitude

- **Activity:** Gratitude Strength Circle: Children will sit in a circle and share one thing they are grateful for. As they share, they will pass around a “strength stone” to symbolize how gratitude can strengthen our hearts and connect us to God’s power. Afterward, discuss how gratitude empowers us and builds our strength.
- **Scripture:** The Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19): This story illustrates how gratitude enhances our strength. Only one of the ten lepers returned to thank Jesus, demonstrating the power of being thankful and how it strengthens our faith.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Little Bird Who Was Afraid to Fly* (Native American Folklore): Overcoming fear and embracing our strength; facing our fears helps us grow and access the strength within us to achieve great things.
- **Affirmation:** “I am grateful for the strength God gives me.”

Week 2 (November 9, 2025): Strength Through Faith

- **Activity:** Faith Builders: Children will use blocks, Legos, or any building materials to construct a tower, representing their faith. Each block will symbolize an act of faith, such as trusting God, helping others, or praying. This visual will remind them that their faith builds inner strength.
- **Scripture:** The Woman with the Hemorrhage (Mark 5:25-34): In this story, the woman’s faith in Jesus gave her the strength to be healed. Discuss how faith helps us build inner strength and how we can rely on God in our moments of weakness.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Brave Little Parrot* (Indian Folktale): Courage and bravery in the face of danger; even the smallest among us can display great courage when standing up for what is right.
- **Affirmation:** “I am strong through my faith in God.”

Week 3 (November 16, 2025): Strength to Serve

- **Activity:** Helping Hands Project: In honor of Thanksgiving, children will engage in a service project, whether it’s making thank-you cards, preparing food for someone in need, or doing chores at home. This emphasizes the strength found in serving others.

- **Scripture:** The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46): This story illustrates how serving others strengthens our relationship with God and with others. Discuss how service is a powerful expression of strength and love.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Stone Cutter* (Japanese folktale): Gratitude and understanding the value of what we have; being content with what we have leads to happiness and fulfillment.
- **Affirmation:** "I am strong when I serve others with love."

Week 4 (November 23, 2025): Strength Through Prayer (Thanksgiving themed)

- **Activity:** Strength Prayer Cards: Children will create prayer cards where they write or draw something they want to pray for or ask God for strength with. These prayer cards will be reminders of how prayer connects them to God's strength.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46): Jesus prayed for strength in the Garden of Gethsemane before facing His trials. Discuss how prayer gives us the strength to endure and face challenges.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Lion and the Mouse* (Aesop's fable): Strength comes in many forms, and even the smallest can be mighty; every act of kindness has value, and helping others leads to unexpected rewards.
- **Affirmation:** "I receive strength from God through prayer."

Week 5 (November 30, 2025): Embracing Inner Strength

- **Activity:** Strength Stance and Dance: Children will learn a "power pose" (e.g., hands on hips or arms wide like a star) and share a time they've shown strength recently. Then, uplifting music will play, and children will celebrate their individuality through free dance.
- **Scripture:** *David and Goliath* (1 Samuel 17:32-50): David demonstrates inner strength and faith as he faces Goliath, showing courage and trust in God to overcome challenges.
- **Alternative Story:** *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae: A giraffe discovers inner strength and confidence as he learns to embrace his unique way of expressing himself.
- **Affirmation:** "I have the strength to face anything with courage and grace."

November Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Gratitude Tree:** Create a family "Gratitude Tree." Each family member will write something they are grateful for on a paper leaf and attach it to the tree. By the end of the month, the tree will be full of gratitude leaves, symbolizing the strength we receive through thankfulness. At the end of the month, reflect together on how gratitude strengthens the family bond.

November Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares a moment when they felt empowered by their faith or by expressing gratitude.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a short meditation focusing on drawing strength from gratitude, imagining a source of light filling them with energy and power to face the week ahead.
- **Scripture:**
 - The Woman with the Hemorrhage (Mark 5:25-34): This story demonstrates how the woman's faith in Jesus gave her the strength to heal. Discuss how we can rely on God's strength in times of difficulty and how faith can strengthen us to face our challenges.
 - Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46): In the garden, Jesus demonstrated strength through prayer. Discuss how prayer not only connects us to God but gives us strength in moments of uncertainty or fear.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - How do you recognize God's strength in your life?
 - What does it mean to be spiritually strong?
 - How can gratitude help you tap into divine strength?
- **Activity:** Strength Reflection Journal: Teens will write in their journals about a recent challenge where they found strength through their faith. They will also note how gratitude helped them feel empowered and connected to God.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What is one way you've felt God's strength in your life? How did it impact your actions or your decisions?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the strength You provide. May we always turn to You in times of need, and may our hearts be full of gratitude as we serve others and grow in faith. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I am strong through God's power and my faith in Him."

*** Facilitator Note: Remind teens that strength is not only about physical endurance—it's about emotional, mental, and spiritual resilience. Encourage them to turn to God's strength in times of difficulty and practice gratitude to build their inner power.*

December: The Power of Zeal

- ★ December focuses on the power of zeal—enthusiastically embracing life with energy, passion, and a commitment to living out God’s purpose. It’s a month dedicated to celebration, joy, and the power of love and light. Christmas is central to the month, reminding us of the zeal with which God entered the world through the birth of Jesus. The activities will help children, teens, and families explore how to live with zeal in their hearts, showing the world the love and energy that Christ brought to our lives.

Week 1 (December 7, 2025): Zeal for God’s Plan

- **Activity:** Zeal Fireworks: Children will draw or cut out paper fireworks and write down things they are passionate about or excited to do for God. These symbols of enthusiasm will be displayed in the classroom or at home, reminding them of the zeal in their hearts.
- **Scripture:** The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20): This story celebrates the birth of Jesus, the ultimate expression of God’s love and zeal for us. Discuss how the zeal of the shepherds to share the good news teaches us to enthusiastically share God’s love.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Snow Queen* (adapted version): Passion and the power of resilience in the face of adversity; zeal and determination can help us overcome even the most difficult obstacles, leading to growth and success.
- **Affirmation:** “I am filled with zeal to live out God’s love and purpose.”

Week 2 (December 14, 2025): Zeal for Love

- **Activity:** Zeal for Others Cards: Children will create cards or small gifts for someone in their life to show love and appreciation, emphasizing that zeal is intended to be shared.
- **Scripture:** The Magi Visit Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12): The story of the Wise Men shows how zeal for Jesus led them to travel great distances to honor Him. Discuss how we can express zeal for others through our actions, service, and love.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Little Match Girl* by Hans Christian Andersen: Hope and resilience; even in the darkest times, our spirit can bring warmth and light if we keep hope alive.
- **Affirmation:** “I share my love and zeal with others.”

Week 3 (December 21, 2025): Zeal for Giving

- **Activity:** Christmas Giving Tree: Children will create a Christmas Giving Tree, where they add symbols of gifts they can give to others, whether through service, kindness, or generosity. This will be a tangible reminder of how zeal drives us to give.
- **Scripture:** The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30): This story demonstrates how using our gifts with zeal for God’s purpose multiplies the blessings we can offer to others. Discuss how we are called to use our zeal for good works in the world.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Brave Little Toaster* by Thomas M. Disch: Perseverance and courage in pursuing a goal; even when things seem difficult, we must remain determined and find strength in our zeal to achieve our goals.
- **Affirmation:** “I give with zeal and joy, sharing God’s blessings with others.”

Week 4 (December 28, 2025): Zeal for the New Year

- **Activity:** New Year's Zeal Jar: Children will write down their hopes, dreams, or resolutions for the upcoming year, and place them in a jar. This symbolizes the zeal and excitement they have for the future and the new opportunities that lie ahead.
- **Scripture:** Jesus Heals the Blind Man (John 9:1-12): This story shows how Jesus brought healing and light into a man's life, showing the zeal He had for spreading God's love. Discuss how we can live with zeal, sharing God's light with others.
- **Alternative Story:** *The Nutcracker* (fairy tale): The magic of the season and the power of believing in the impossible; when we believe in something with all our hearts, it has the power to transform the world around us.
- **Affirmation:** "I step into the new year with zeal, ready to embrace all that God has for me."

December Family Engagement - Family Activity

- **Zeal for Service Project:** As a family, commit to a service project that aligns with the Christmas season. This could be donating to a food pantry, volunteering at a shelter, or organizing a Christmas gift drive. Reflect as a family on how serving others with zeal strengthens the community and brings joy.

December Teen Lesson Plan

- **Opening:**
 - Check-in: Each teen shares one thing they are passionate about or excited to do in the coming year.
 - Short Meditation: Guide the teens through a meditation focused on the light of God filling them with energy, passion, and zeal to face the new year.
- **Scripture:**
 - The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20): Discuss the zeal that the shepherds had to spread the news of Jesus' birth, and how we are called to live with that same enthusiasm to share the love and message of Christ.
 - The Magi Visit Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12): Reflect on the journey of the Wise Men, emphasizing their zeal and devotion to seeking Jesus and the joy that it brought them.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What does zeal mean to you?
 - How do you express zeal for God in your daily life?
 - How can zeal help us live with passion and purpose?
- **Activity:** Zeal for the Future Vision Board: Teens will create a vision board for the upcoming year, including goals, dreams, and things they feel called to accomplish. This board will reflect their zeal for the future and the steps they can take to bring their dreams to life.
- **Reflection:** Journal Prompt: "What is one way you can bring more zeal into your life in the coming year? How can you use your zeal to serve others and grow spiritually?"
- **Closing:**
 - Closing Prayer: "Thank you, God, for the zeal and passion You give us to live with purpose. May we always embrace Your calling with enthusiasm and joy, sharing Your love with others. Amen."
 - Affirmation: "I live with zeal, trusting that God's love empowers me to do great things."

*** Facilitator Note: Encourage teens to view zeal as more than just enthusiasm—it's about living intentionally, passionately, and with purpose. Remind them that zeal is a powerful spiritual force that aligns us with God's will.*