

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: GOD SAVES, PART 1

Jonah

Jonah 1—4

When Jonah runs away from God rather than take a message to the evil people of Nineveh, he is thrown off a boat during a storm. God saves Jonah by sending a big fish to swallow him. Jonah decides to obey God and give God's message of mercy to the Ninevites, and as a result, the Ninevites turn from their sin and God saves them from destruction.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD SAVES, PART 2

Esther

Esther 1—10

God works through Queen Esther to save His people from destruction.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- After a falling-out between King Xerxes and Queen Vashti, the king commanded a search be made for the woman who would take Vashti's place as queen.
- After an extensive search, a young Jewish woman from Susa, named Esther, won the favor of the king and was crowned queen in place of Vashti.
- God chose Esther to help preserve The Promise of God within the line of Judah.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

During mealtime, read to your children the biblical account of God saving His people in **Esther 8:3–6 and 16–17a**. Explain to them that the Jewish people feasted and celebrated when they were saved. Encourage your kids to act out the celebrating and joyous shouts the Jewish people must have made as they feasted.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- What did Esther ask the king to do?
- How did the Jewish people feel when God saved them?
- What are some ways God has saved us?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Saves into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

**The LORD your God is with you, the
Mighty Warrior who saves.
Zephaniah 3:17a**

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **may you realize how blessed you are, because you are a child of the God who saves.**

For more information about blessing your child, talk to your ministry leader or see *Spiritual Parenting* by Michelle Anthony.