

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, **we want YOU to be the one to introduce** this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



3.13

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Festival: Day of Atonement

JUST FOR FUN

At dinner this week, play a game of "Pass the Pepper," using the pepper shaker. Before each person passes it, he must tell the best thing that happened to him during the past week. After taking time to remember and celebrate all the great events of the week, talk with your children about the festivals God's people celebrated. On the Day of Atonement, they spent time remembering His goodness and righteousness. One way the Israelites did this was by repenting and confessing their sins together. Read **1 John 1:5-10**. Discuss as a family the forgiving love of Jesus Christ and the importance of confession and repentance.

Did You Know?

- The Day of Atonement was a reflective and often solemn festival each year, involving fasting, prayer, and repentance. The Israelites rededicated the temple of the Lord and repented of their sins.
- On this day each year, the high priest passed through the veil in the temple and entered the Holy of Holies with sacrificial blood to make atonement for the sins of the people. In the New Testament, Jesus, who is our High Priest, shed His blood once and for all to make atonement for our sins before God.

- Several times during the year, the Israelites gathered for a feast or festival. These were times to remember what God did for His people and to celebrate His goodness. The entire faith community gathered and simply worshipped and celebrated.

- The Feast of Passover was fulfilled by the death of the Messiah, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled by His sinless sacrifice, and the Feast of First Fruits was fulfilled by His resurrection. The Feast of Harvest began with three thousand new believers when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the people. The Feast of Trumpets will announce Christ's return, the Day of Atonement will usher in His judgment of the nations, and the Feast of Tabernacles begins the journey to our new home in a new heaven and new earth.

Quality time is always important for children of any age. Find time, as often as you can, to snuggle on the couch with your child, read a book, or play a game together. You'll be amazed how even the shortest times together can allow your child to feel loved and valued.

Teachable Moments

After reading **1 John 1:5-10**, discuss the following together:

- What does it mean that God is light?
- What happens when we confess our sins?
- What is one thing you would like to confess and ask Jesus to forgive?

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), **God loves you very much, and He is always with you!**