

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 IS IN CHARGE

Rise and Fall of King Saul

1 Samuel 8—10; 15

God's people wanted a human king rather than trusting God to lead them. God appointed Saul as the first Israelite king. Saul followed God for a time, but then he began to disobey God's instructions.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: JESUS IS IMMANUEL

Angel Visits Mary and Joseph

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:26–35; Matthew 1:18–25

An angel announces Jesus' birth to Mary and Joseph.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- The name *Immanuel*, God with us, was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
- *Immanuel* derives from the Hebrew word *Immanu'el*; *Emmanuel* derives from the Greek word *Emmanouel*. Whether spelled with an "E" or an "I," both spellings mean "God with us."
- God came to earth and dwelt among men. He temporarily set aside His divine prerogatives to become a servant to all.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

Pile your family into mom and dad's bed. Snuggle in under the covers. Once everyone is settled, in a hushed voice read about the angel visiting Joseph in a dream in **Matthew 1:18–25**. Afterward, ask family members to recount what they heard. After you've hit all the meaningful parts of the story, pray together and ask God to show you where He appears in this part of The Big God Story. Jesus was called *Immanuel*, or "God with us." Talk about some of the ways they can know that God is with us today.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions together:

- What do you think it must have felt like for Joseph to be visited by an angel?
- How can we know that God is with us?
- Who can we tell about Jesus?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how Jesus is Immanuel 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 know that your God, who is mighty and wonderful, is always with you.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to truministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.