

A stylized, geometric illustration of two children climbing a rope. The child on the left is a boy with short, curly hair, wearing a light-colored shirt. The child on the right is a girl with glasses and a ponytail, wearing a dark sweater. They are both pulling on a thick rope that runs diagonally across the frame. The background features radiating lines emanating from behind the children, suggesting a bright light source.

explore

book 2

in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

Discover Your Place in God's Plan

Student Book



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Discover Your Place in God's Plan

Student Book 2 in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

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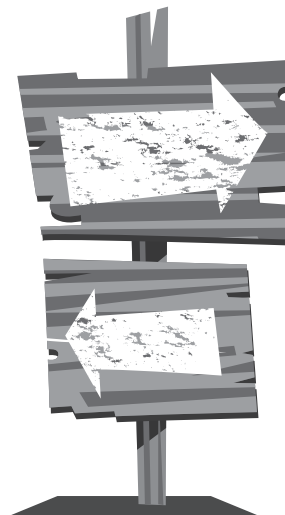
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explore

explore Discover Your Place in God's Plan

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The Trinity

God is three in one.

Engage

H₂O can appear three different ways—as water, as ice, and as steam. Each one is different and yet alike. They are all H₂O.



God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are kind of like the H₂O; they're each different but still one. They are three persons, but one God. That's what we mean by the word *Trinity*.

I Can Know It Is True

1. God is the creator of all things and is our Heavenly Father.

Read what the Bible says about Him in Genesis 1:1 and Isaiah 40:28–29.

2. Jesus is God's Son. He is our Savior and wants to be our forever friend.

Explore what the Bible says about Jesus in Colossians 1:15–20 and John 1:29.

3. The Holy Spirit is our guide. He helps us choose what is right and gives us comfort when life is hard.

See what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit in 1 Corinthians 2:10–12 and John 16:13.

God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are different, and yet are one; they are all God. It's hard to understand how they can be separate and yet the same. Just remember the H₂O.

God is our creator and heavenly Father.

Jesus is our Savior and forever friend.

The Holy Spirit is our guide and comforter.

The three together are the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Check It Out

Look up the following passages. Where can you see a reference to each person of the Trinity?

2 Corinthians 13:14

Matthew 28:19

Ephesians 2:18

Read Luke 3:21–22.

Which persons of the Trinity are mentioned and what are they doing?



Question

The Trinity is a hard concept to understand, but Christians need to believe it in our hearts.

When you believe something that you don't understand, it's called having *faith*.

"I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand . . ." (Eph. 1:18).

Can you see the work of the Trinity in your own life?

How have you interacted with God the Father?

What does Jesus the Savior mean to you?

Have you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding or directing you?

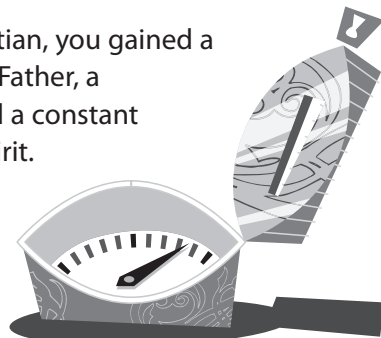
Sometimes life is hard. When you feel lonely, scared, angry, or frustrated, it's nice to know you're not alone. You have three on your side: a Heavenly Father who loves you, a Savior who wants to be your forever friend and will never leave you alone, and a Holy Spirit to show you the way and help you figure out what you're supposed to do and how you're supposed to live!

What is something that really scares you?

Do you ever feel lonely? Why?

When was the last time you were really angry? What happened?

When you became a Christian, you gained a new relationship with the Father, a forever friend in Jesus, and a constant companion in the Holy Spirit.



All three are with you on this journey of faith. All three love you, and all three will help you grow and become a new, improved you!

When you feel lonely, scared, angry, or frustrated, think three in one: The Trinity!



Challenge

This week, think of several ways you can see your Father the Creator in the world around you, know Jesus is your Savior, and feel the Holy Spirit guide you. Write some of these down and be prepared to share some of them next week.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Explore

Ephesians 2:18 says, “Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.”





Temptation

**We will all be tempted by Satan,
but we don't have to give in.**

Engage

First Corinthians 10:13 says, "The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure."



I Can Know It Is True

1. Temptation is different from sin. We face situations where we must choose between right and wrong everyday. Sometimes we want to make the wrong choice. We call this *being tempted*.

Being tempted is not a sin as long as we make the right choice, but temptation can lead to sin if we choose to do what we know is wrong.

See what the Bible says in James 1:13–15.

2. Temptation may look good, but it's not. Sometimes it might be hard to make the right decision when we are tempted, because Satan tries to make the wrong choice look better than the right choice.

Satan lies and tells us it won't hurt us or anyone else to do something wrong. He might say things such as: "No one will know what you've done" or "No one will get hurt" or "It can't be wrong if everyone else is doing it."

The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:8: "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

We can also read what the Bible says about Satan and his plans in 1 Peter 5:8 and 2 Corinthians 11:14.

3. You can resist temptation. In Luke 4, Jesus provides an example of how to resist temptation. Jesus quotes God's Word and relies on God's truths instead of Satan's lies. Praying, quoting Scripture, and talking to a trusted adult or friend are a few things that we can do that will help us resist temptation. The Holy Spirit, who is our guide, will help us know what is right and will give us the courage to resist temptation.

Temptation can be hard to resist, but God promises to help us when we are tempted.

Discover what the Bible says about resisting temptation in Matthew 26:41 and Ephesians 6:10–18. Write out all of the pieces of armor mentioned in the

Ephesians passage and how they help us fight temptation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

You will be tempted by Satan, but you don't have to give in. When you seek God's truth and rely on Him for help, you can overcome any temptation you face.

Check It Out

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

What does this verse teach you about temptation and about God?

Read James 4:7.

What does humility have to do with resisting Satan?

How can these verses help you the next time you are facing temptation?



Question

What is one temptation you know everyone faces? Make a list of the lies that Satan might use to convince people that the wrong decision sounds good.

Now make a list of possible consequences people might face if they choose to sin in that situation.

Taking the time to think through the lies Satan tells you and the consequences of choosing to sin will help you resist temptation.

In Matthew 4, you can read about how Jesus was tempted by Satan.

How does knowing that Jesus faced and resisted temptation help you in your own life?

When Jesus faced temptation, He quoted Scripture. How would quoting Scripture help you resist temptation?

Think of three things that you have been tempted to do.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which verses that you read today will help you resist these temptations?



Challenge

Hebrews 2:18 says, “Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.”

Write this verse on several sticky notes and post them in a place where you will see them throughout the week—maybe your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, desk, or school notebook. When you are tempted to sin, quote the verse.

Pick one person you can share this verse with and tell them what it means to you.

Keep a record of when you were tempted and by the end of the week, praise God for helping you resist temptation!

When I was tempted:

What it was:

How I resisted:

Explore

Ephesians 6:10–11 says, “A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.”



Bible Study and Prayer

We can grow closer to God through prayer and Scripture reading.

Engage

The more we learn about God the closer we become to Him. We can grow closer to God through prayer and Scripture reading.



I Can Know It Is True

1. We learn about God through reading the Bible. If you want to get to know people better, you take time to learn about their likes, dislikes, hobbies, and family. If you want to get to know God better, you take the time to learn about who He is, the things that please Him, and how to have a friendship with Him. You can learn all of these things by reading the Bible.

See what the Bible says about God in Psalm 33, and about His Word in Hebrews 4:12.

2. We talk to God through prayer. Communication is an important part of friendship. Communication includes both talking and listening. When you talk to your friends, it's called a *conversation*. When you talk to God, it's called *prayer*. The wonderful thing about having a friendship with God is you can talk to Him anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

God hears and answers all of your prayers.

Check out what the Bible says about prayer in Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; and James 5:13–16.

3. Our faith is strengthened when we study the Bible and pray regularly. The more you pray and read the Bible, the more you will be willing to trust and lean on God. As you read His Word and learn more of Him, your faith is strengthened; and as you pray, your relationship with Him becomes closer.

Discover how your faith can be strengthened by reading the Bible and praying in Philippians 4:6–7 and 2 Timothy 3:15–17.

By faithfully studying the Bible and talking with God, you can discover how Jesus is the best friend you will ever have. You will understand that He loves you unconditionally and desires for you to be with Him forever.

Check It Out

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

What does this verse mean to you?



Read 1 Chronicles 16:11.

How could your life be different if you leaned on God for strength instead of yourself?



Question

Why is it important to grow closer to God?

What does it mean to study the Bible?

Check out Matthew 6:5–8. What do these verses teach you about prayer?

The Bible says that God answers all of your prayers. What are three answers God can give when you make a prayer request?

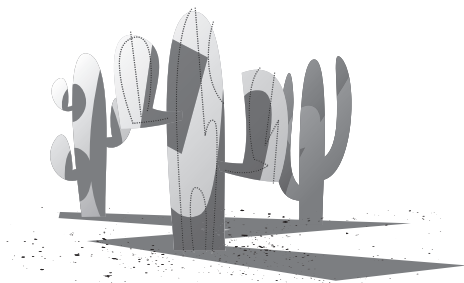
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Even though God answers all of your prayers, He doesn't always answer them the way you want. When you don't get the answer you want, it's important to remember that God's plans for your life are bigger and better than yours.

Scripture reading and prayer are two ways you can grow closer to God. List three other ways you can grow closer to God.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Studying the Bible and spending time in prayer are important. Which one do you have a hard time doing and how can you make it a more important part of your life?





Challenge

This week, keep a prayer journal. Read the Scripture provided each day and write down a prayer to God. Your prayer can be short or long. The important part is to make prayer a habit every day this week.

Monday: Psalm 100:4

Tuesday: Psalm 118:1

Wednesday: Luke 6:27–30

Thursday: Luke 11:9

Friday: 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Saturday: John 3:17–18

Sunday: Romans 12:13

Explore

Philippians 4:6–7 says, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”



Holy Living

God wants us to live holy lives.

Engage

The Bible tells us that we are to be holy. First Peter 1:16 says: “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must be holy because I am holy.’”



Holiness is perfect loving—loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself. Holiness is Christ-likeness—being like Jesus!



I Can Know It Is True

1. We can live a holy life by loving God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Once we have a relationship with God, He wants us to live differently than we did before. Instead of making choices based on what we want to do, He wants us to make choices that will please and honor Him. The Holy Spirit will help you love God perfectly and put Him first in your life. When you do that, you will make godly choices.

See what the Bible says about living a holy life by loving God in Matthew 22:37; Ephesians 4:17–32; and 1 Peter 1:14–16.

2. We can live a holy life by loving our neighbors as ourselves. God wants us to show others His love through our actions and words. We can do this by treating people the way we would want to be treated. It's not always easy to show people love. It's hard to love people who are mean to us and act in a way that is hurtful. God asks us to love even those who are unlovable—loving the person even though we don't love what they do!

Loving our neighbors as ourselves is an important part of holy living. On our own, we'll never be able to love perfectly. But with the help of the Holy Spirit we can!

Read about how you can live a holy life as you love others in Matthew 5:43–48; 22:38–39; and 1 Peter 2:9.

3. We can live a holy life by following Jesus' example. Jesus lived a perfect life. He always gave His best to God and chose to do God's will even when life got hard. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can give our best to God and choose to obey Him no matter what.

Read about how following Jesus' example leads to holy living in 2 Peter 1:3–11 and 1 John 3:4–10.

The Bible says that when we find forgiveness for our sins through Jesus' sacrifice we become pure and holy in God's eyes. But holiness does not end there. God wants you to live a holy life. You can do this by loving God with all you have, by loving others as yourself, and by following Jesus' example.

Check It Out

Read Leviticus 20:7.

What do you think it means to “set yourselves apart to be holy”?

Read Romans 12:1.

How can you be a living and holy sacrifice for God?



Question

God wants you to live a holy life. Check out what it says in 1 Peter 1:15. Why is it important to live a holy life?

How does loving God with all of your heart and soul lead to holy living?

Read Philippians 4:8. This verse is a great example of what it looks like to love God with all of your mind. God knows that what you think about and fill your mind with will affect how you live. What kind of things are you filling your mind with?

What does it look like when you love God with all of your strength?

How can your holiness show God’s love to others?

You can live a holy life by following Jesus’ example. In what areas of your life do you need to be more like Jesus?



Challenge

Read Matthew 6:1–4 at least four times.
Underline anything that stands out to you.

“Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.”

Write down what the verses mean and the different ways you can put them into action.

Make note of at least one way you can live out this verse this week.

Explore

First Peter 2:9 says, “. . . for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.”



Worship

Worship is our way of showing God we love Him.



Engage

Worship is a gift we can give to God. It's an expression of our love and appreciation for who God is and all that He has done in our lives.

I Can Know It Is True

1. Worship is more than music. When people talk about worship, they're usually talking about the music they sing at church. But worship is more than singing. Any word, thought, or action can be considered worship as long as it's done in a way that pleases and brings honor to God.

See what worship is all about in 1 Chronicles 16:29; 28:9; and Psalm 95:1–7.

2. We can worship God publicly (corporately). Going to church provides you with the opportunity to worship God through prayer, Scripture reading, music, Bible learning, service, and fellowship. Public worship requires you to participate in every aspect of service.

Read about public worship in Hebrews 10:23–25.

3. We can worship God in private (individually). The way you worship God in private is by honoring God in the way you live. You worship God with your gifts

and abilities, by doing your best, giving God the credit, and serving Him and others. Your life should be an expression of your love for God.

Read about worshiping God in Romans 12:1–2.

Give God the best gift you can offer Him, your life. That's how you make worship a way of living.

Check It Out

Read Psalm 89:15.

How does your attitude affect the way you worship?

Read Psalm 100:1–2.

What ways can you worship God other than music?



Question

What does worship look like in your life?

Read Exodus 34:14. Anytime you place a person or an object above your relationship with God, you have allowed that item or person to become your god.

What are some objects or people that preteens might put above God?

It's easy to worship God when everything in your life seems to be going well, and you feel like God is blessing you. But when life doesn't seem to be going your way, worshipping God can be more difficult.

Why is it important to worship God even when life gets tough?

You can worship God in public by going to church. Take a moment and reflect on why you go to church. Is it so you can see your friends? Is it because your parents make you? Or, is it so you can spend time showing God you love Him?

Worship isn't something you do only on Sundays. Worship is a lifestyle. Make a list of five ways you can worship God in your everyday life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Think about all the things God has done for you. As an act of worship, write a short thank you note to God for all He has done for you.





Challenge

Choose one specific way to worship God this week. Be as creative as you want. You will do this every day this week. Then record how that worship experience has affected you.

I will worship God by:

Explore

Psalms 100 says,

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth!

Worship the LORD with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the LORD is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

and his faithfulness continues to each generation.

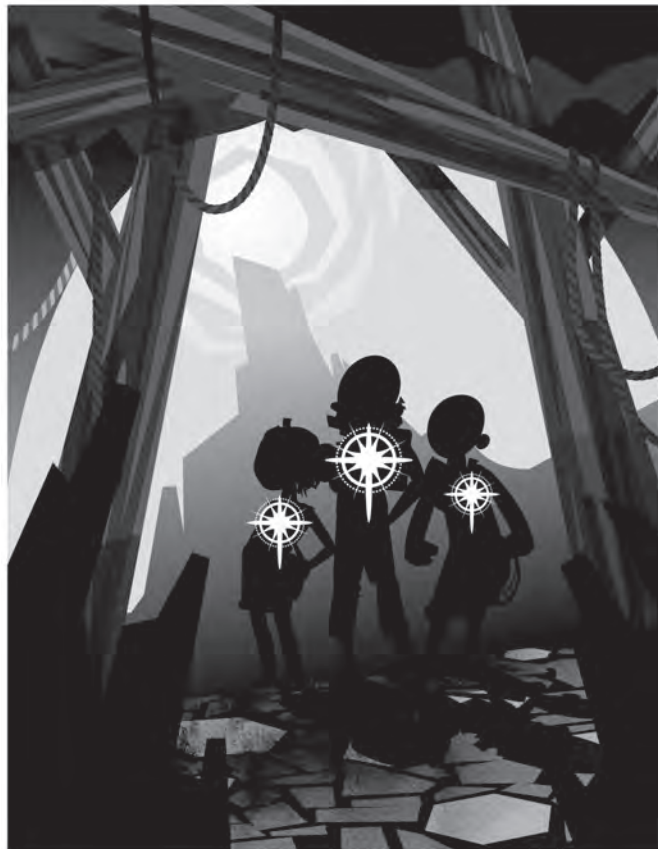


Membership

God desires for us to belong to a community of faith.

Engage

God doesn't want us to live life isolated from other believers. God wants us to belong to a local church.



I Can Know It Is True

1. God wants us to be a part of His team—the Church. Making a commitment of faith in God is a personal commitment, but your salvation makes you a member of God's family. Your life of faith is meant to be shared with other believers. Just like a sports team practices together, plays together, and shares victories and sad times together, God wants us to gather with other Christians and grow stronger together. We can do this through the local church. Your spiritual formation or growth happens best when you are committed to a community of faith (a church).

You can read about being a part of God's team in Ephesians 1:5 and Acts 2:42–47. Be sure to notice the different things this community of faith did together and the result (verse 47).

2. We each have a part to play on God's team. For a team to succeed, each player must play his or her part. God's team works the same way. God doesn't just want you to sit on the bench or cheer from the sidelines. God wants you to be an active member of His team—the

Church. God wants you to participate, serve, and give. God has gifted every person on His team with specific gifts, abilities, and passions. God wants each of us to use our unique gifts to serve and grow His church.

You can read about the importance of playing your part in Acts 2:44; 1 Corinthians 12:7; and Ephesians 4:16.

3. Being on God's team comes with responsibilities and benefits. Most teams require you to show up for practices, support your teammates, and always give your best during game time. Being on God's team also comes with responsibilities. It requires commitment, service, contribution, and a dedication to love and support the other members of God's team.

One of the benefits of being on God's team is that you get to experience life with other believers. These experiences will help you to share and grow in faith together. You also have the benefit of knowing that there are people who love you and are there to support you as you grow in your relationship with God.

The biggest benefit of being on God's team is that you will get to spend eternity with God and your teammates.

Read about the responsibilities and benefits of being on God's team in Acts 2:42; Galatians 6:2, 10; and 1 Peter 1:3–4.

God desires for you to belong to a community of faith because He knows that you need His church and His church needs you.

Check It Out

Read Matthew 18:20.

According to this verse God is always among us when we get together with other believers. Do you think knowing this might encourage some people to change how they behave when they get together? Why or why not?

Read John 13:35.

How does our love for each other prove to the world that we are on God's team?



Question

God desires for us to belong to a community of faith. What are the dangers of trying to live a godly life on your own?

God wants us to play an active role on His team. Why is it important for us to do more than just sit on the bench?

God gave each member of His team unique gifts and abilities. We need to depend on Him and each other to be an effective team. What are some of your unique gifts and abilities? Maybe you play an instrument, love to teach, or enjoy organizing. How can you use your gifts to serve the church?

One of the responsibilities of being a member of God's team is loving and supporting other believers (your teammates). How can you love and support your teammates?

One of the benefits of being on God's team is that other people will be there to help you grow closer to God. List three people who have helped you grow closer to God. How can you express your appreciation for them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

We all want to belong. We want to feel special, loved, and needed. How can being a member of your church help you feel that way?

Being a member of your local church is a privilege and honor. It comes with both responsibilities and benefits. It's up to you to make the choice. Do you want to sit on the bench or get in the game?



Challenge

Your challenge this week is to decide if you would like to become a student member of the church.

To make the best decision for you, follow these steps:

1. Pray about your decision.
2. Talk to your parents or caregivers about it.
3. Fill out the application at the end of this book with your parents or caregivers.
4. Meet with your children's leader or pastor.
5. Make a commitment to attend the membership class and the celebration service with your family.

If you decide now is not the time for you to join the church through student membership, write a thank-you note to someone in the church who has played a part in your spiritual journey.

Explore

First Peter 1:3–4 says, “All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.”



Student Membership Application

I, _____, would like to be considered for student membership to my local community of faith. I confirm that Jesus Christ is my personal Lord and Savior. The following is my personal story of faith:

I have thoughtfully prayed about this decision. I understand the responsibilities and benefits of student membership. As I understand, my responsibilities include:

The benefits of local church membership include:

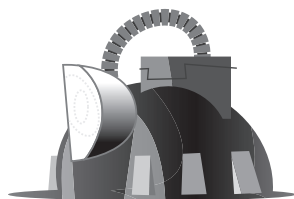
I have publically demonstrated my commitment to Jesus Christ through baptism. The following describes my baptism experience:

I have talked to my parents and together we have decided this is the best decision for me at this point in my faith journey.

Preteen's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____





Congratulations

on discovering your place
in God's plan!

Now continue to *Explore*
as you experience
God's power in you!

explore