

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 1- Week of January 8th

THE BEGINNING OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

Bringing The Story Home is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.



Big Idea: God Made Me!

Bible Basis: Genesis 1-9:17

Key Verse: *When God created man, he made him in his own likeness. –Genesis 5:1, NIV*

Parent Tips: Read and discuss the Big Idea from TrueKidz. Use the Table Talk question to start a discussion around the dinner table or at some point this week. The Living Faith activity is designed to help your child know that they are perfectly created by God. The Extra mile idea will help your family spread God's love in the community.

Table Talk:

Younger Elementary

- **If you could live a day as any animal, what animal would you be? What are some of the good and bad things about living as that animal?**
- **What are some ways people and animals are different?**
- **Are people or animals more important to God?** Explain that people are worth way more than animals, because we're the only part of Creation made in God's image. We were made to have a relationship with God. Even Jesus said in Matthew 10:31 that we're "worth more than many sparrows."

Older Elementary

- **What are some things you really like about yourself? (Could be eyes, hair, clothes, sense of humor)**
- **Hollywood actors and models always talk about how they'd like to change their appearance, yet they're considered the pretty people. Is there anything you'd change about yourself?**
- **Do you think God would change anything about you?**
- **Why do you think the culture is so consumed with looks and fame?**

Living Faith: Spend a few moments one evening on a family treasure hunt. You can write your own clues or use the ones given here. End your hunt at a mirror (either hand held or in a bathroom) so your family can discover God's greatest creation—you!

Clue #1:

I'm no simple box with doors and a light.
I will keep you food cold, both day and night.

Clue #2: (Hide in Refrigerator)

Yawn...If you're tired, you're coming to me.
For safety and warmth, I'm the place to be.

Clue #3: (Hide in a Bed)
I'm pretty and make oxygen for you.
Give me water—it's the right thing to do.

Clue #4: (Hide in a Plant)
With four wheels and an engine, I go fast.
But without any gas, I cannot last.

Clue #5 (Hide in Car)
Your search is almost over, so be glad.
You wipe your eyes with me when you are sad.

*OPTION #1- Takes you to the Bathroom
Clue #6 (Hide in Tissue Box)
This is the last clue. Hope it has been fun.
Always wash your hands in here when you're done.

*OPTION #2- Takes you to the couch where you have put a mirror under the cushions.
Clue #6 (Hide in Tissue Box)
Come to me when you want to sit around.
Lift up my cushions and treasure you've found.

When you find the mirror, ask your children to identify the treasure. (They should say it's them.) Remind your children that they are created in God's image. Let them know how proud you are of them. Talk about some things you appreciate about them and tie that into how those characteristics are from God. Remind them that God expects a lot from them. Remind them that although sin messes up the image at times, Jesus brings forgiveness and restores us.

Extra Mile: For added emphasis on this week's theme, try one of these activities.

1. Spend some time going on a walk in your neighborhood or nearby park. You could also pull out some pictures of the family enjoying the outdoors. Point out and talk about the things God created while you are outside or in the picture. Ask:
 - **What do you know about each of these things that God created?**
 - **Why do you think God created it?**
 - **What is your favorite part of God's creation? Why?**
2. Remind your children that all people are important to God by taking some food to a local food bank or going through your closets and making a donation to a homeless shelter or other donation center. Remind your kids that helping those in need shows them God's love.

Prayer Time: *Dear God, thank you for making me and all of creation. Thank you for taking care of all of our needs. Help us to always put you first in all we do and remind us always that we have been created in your image and that you love us so much. Amen.*