

## Cycle Overview

<b>Quarter &amp; Subject</b>	<b>Course Description</b>	<b>Bible Passages</b>
Fall 2014 <b>Guided by God</b>	Elijah and Elisha, prophets in the Divided Kingdom, teach us how to follow and serve God.	1, 2 Samuel; 1, 2, Kings
Winter 2014–15 <b>Basic Bible Beliefs</b>	This course is a survey of basic Bible doctrines, including Bible, God, man, sin, Satan, angels, salvation, the church, and end times.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Spring 2015 <b>Old Testament Deliverers</b>	Studying the judges of Israel and Ruth helps students know that God blesses obedience and those who trust Him.	Judges; Ruth
Summer 2015 <b>Growing Spiritually</b>	Basic steps, next steps, and growing steps provide the framework for studying fundamental areas of spiritual growth, such as Bible study, church attendance, understanding God's will, and overcoming temptation.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Fall 2015 <b>Spiritual Conflict</b>	This course develops the theme of the conflict between God and Satan and how this conflict plays out in the lives of believers as they must decide between various courses of action.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Winter 2015–16 <b>Character Studies</b>	Bible characters like Rahab, Caleb, Daniel, Lydia, and Silas help teens today know how to develop Christlikeness.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Spring 2016 <b>Mark's Gospel</b>	Students will learn valuable lessons from the life of Christ as they study the Gospel of Mark.	Mark
Summer 2016 <b>Making Wise Choices</b>	Joseph and David demonstrate how believers should choose to live for God even in difficult circumstances.	Genesis; 1, 2 Samuel
Fall 2016 <b>The Church</b>	Family members, family protocol, family history, and family growth are the themes in this practical study of the church, the family of God.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Winter 2016–17 <b>Self-Concept</b>	As young teens struggle with issues of self-concept, they will learn what the Bible teaches about unconditional love, accepting change, handling rejection, dealing with failure, and other practical subjects.	Selected passages throughout Scripture
Spring 2017 <b>The Ten Commandments</b>	The Ten Commandments (all of which are directly or indirectly referred to in the New Testament) are God's timeless moral standards to teach us how to properly relate to God and others.	Exodus and selected passages throughout Scripture
Summer 2017 <b>Handling Problems</b>	Problems "In My Life" (such as bad habits and worry) and problems "In My World" (such as pain, prejudice, and pollution) are the focus of this course.	Selected passages throughout Scripture

# MY CHURCH: HOW IT WORKS, WHERE I FIT

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### THE DOCTRINAL BASIS OF OUR CURRICULUM

A more detailed statement with references is available upon request.

- The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures
- Only one true God
- The Trinity of the Godhead
- The Holy Spirit and His ministry
- The personality of Satan
- The Genesis account of creation
- Original sin and the fall of man
- The virgin birth of Christ
- Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ
- The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ
- Grace and the new birth
- Justification by faith
- Sanctification of the believer
- The security of the believer
- The church
- The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper
- Biblical separation—ecclesiastical and personal
- Obedience to civil government
- The place of Israel
- The pretribulation rapture of the church
- The premillennial return of Christ
- The millennial reign of Christ
- Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous
- Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked

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Building Lives by the Book

# How to Teach *My Faith* Lessons

**T**hank you for choosing *My Faith* as your Sunday School curriculum for junior high youth. This material has been designed to help you, a junior high teacher, clearly present God's Word to your students. It will guide you in using active learning methods that allow your students to interact with God's Word for themselves. It offers application ideas that will encourage your students to be doers of God's Word, not merely hearers (James 1:22).

Take a few moments to become familiar with the layout of this teacher book and with *Living My Faith*, the weekly take-home devotions for students that help them learn and integrate the lesson material on a daily basis.

Notice these icons in the teacher book.



Refer to the **daily devotions** or the **back cover** of the **student book**.



Quote (or read) the **memory verse** in class, or use the verse in some other way.



Use the **reproducible worksheet** from the teacher book as part of a learning activity.

We have built this course and the individual lessons around a central theme. As you emphasize the theme (and even decorate your room with the theme in mind), we believe your students will have an effective learning experience.

In preparation for teaching . . .

- read the lesson texts several times. Look up words or concepts that you cannot clearly explain. Use Bible study tools as necessary to help you understand the passage(s).

- do the daily devotions in the student booklet. You need to know what your students are studying each day.

- memorize the memory verse throughout the week.

- look at the materials list early in the week.
- prepare the activity that focuses students' attention on the Bible lesson. Remember, this part of the lesson should take only five to ten minutes.

- work through the Bible study section. Notice the active learning methods. Decide how you will involve your students in the Bible passage. The Bible study is the heart of the lesson. Plan it carefully. Make notes in the margins of your book. Strive for maximum participation.

- decide how to apply the Bible truths and bring the lesson to a close. If more than one application idea is suggested, use the one best suited for your class. Don't assume your students will "just get it." Plan these final minutes of class time carefully.

- pray for yourself, your students, and your lesson. The Holy Spirit is your divine Helper. Without Him, you cannot do anything of eternal value (John 14:16, 17; 15:5; 16:13).

On Sunday morning . . .

- make sure you arrive in your classroom before the first student.

- look at your room. Is it attractive and inviting to students?

- commit yourself and your class to the Lord.

- teach with the confidence that God will work in your students' lives.

God has promised that His Word will not return to Him void; it will accomplish its intended purposes (Isa. 55:11). You can teach with confidence!

# Notes for This Quarter

**T**he New Testament's concentrated emphasis on the church shows the degree of importance God places on it. This quarter's lessons focus on the history, makeup, and practices of the church.

Junior high students are at a pivotal time in which they are getting more and more involved with activities outside their homes. Now is the time for them to understand the importance of the local church and to choose to prioritize it in their schedules. They need to interact with Scripture's teaching on the church and apply that teaching to their day-to-day lives.

As you prepare for and teach these lessons, remember that your passion for the church will affect your students' attitudes toward the church. Purpose to make each lesson applicable to your students. Encourage students to use their Living My Faith student books to prepare their minds and hearts for the Sunday School hour.

Included with this quarter's lessons is a "History Highlights" section, which provides a springboard into a study of the history tracing from the New Testament church to today's church. Use this resource to help your students connect your local church with the churches described in the New Testament. Use it also to bring glory to God for His faithfulness to His church over the centuries.

## JUNIOR HIGH MATERIALS LIST

- Teacher's personal Bible
- Students' personal Bibles and extra Bibles for students who do not bring Bibles to class
- Whiteboard and colored markers or chalkboard and chalk
- Pens (assorted kinds) and pencils (well sharpened; with erasers)
- Felt-tip markers (various widths and assorted colors)
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Pads of self-stick notes (various colors; ruled and unruled)
- 3 x 5 cards
- Paper (ruled and unruled)
- Sheets of poster board (white and colors)
- Masking tape (or other adhesive for mounting items on the wall)
- Glue sticks and glue
- Scissors for teacher's and students' use
- Poster-sized paper or butcher paper
- Construction paper
- Hole punch



# Leading a Student to Christ

**T**he highest privilege you have as a teacher is the opportunity to lead your students to Christ and help them grow in their relationship with Him. Be prepared to talk to students about salvation or about other problems or decisions in their lives.

There is no set pattern for talking to someone about the Lord. In each situation, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in your own heart and mind and to the needs of the individual teen. Deal with him separately rather than in a group. Allow the teen to tell you in his own words what his need is. Don't put words in his mouth; this is his decision, not yours!

## **SALVATION DECISION**

Stress the need for personal salvation, particularly if the student has grown up in the church. She may confuse her knowledge of Bible stories, her church-centered activities, or her parentally enforced Christian code of conduct with individual faith.

Thoughtfully rephrase the Christian clichés that your students may have heard so often, or that may seem like a foreign language to some young people; e.g., ask Jesus into your heart, ask Jesus to be your Savior, have faith, trust in Jesus. Help the teen understand that "trust" is having confidence that someone or something is always right; "Jesus died for me" means that I was condemned to die, but Jesus voluntarily took my place on the cross; "believe" means accepting/deciding that something is true and then acting on it. Don't let the personal nature of salvation become misunderstood through the use of trite phrases or pat answers.

## **PLAN OF SALVATION**

Keep a few basic points in mind when dealing with someone about salvation.

- Each individual is a sinner. No one can live up to God's standard (Rom. 3:23).

- Sin's penalty is death (Rom. 6:23).

- God loves him and sent His Son to pay the penalty for his sin. Christ died as his substitute, in his place (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

- When he places his confidence in Jesus and what He did as sufficient payment for sins, Jesus becomes his Savior. His sins are forgiven, and he receives God's gift of everlasting life (John 1:12; 5:24).

- Everlasting life begins immediately and is not temporary. (Point this out in any verse where the word "eternal" or "everlasting" is used, such as in John 3:16.) Nothing we can ever do will take us out of God's hand of security (John 10:27-29).

- The Christian should tell others of his decision (Rom. 10:9, 10).

- The experience of the new birth (being born into God's family) is not based on a feeling, but on confidence in God's Word (1 John 5:11, 12).

Encourage the student to pray, no matter how hesitantly. He needs to talk to God about his need and his decision.

Ask him to explain to you what he has done and what has happened in his life.

## **DISCIPLESHIP**

Encourage a new believer to read the Bible, and explain the importance of prayer. Help him understand how to pray. Point out 1 John 1:9 as God's instruction for dealing with sin in the Christian's life.

Make it a priority to follow up the new Christian. Visit in his home; encourage him to attend Sunday School and church regularly; help him with Bible study and prayer; guide him in his new life as a Christian.

# LESSON 1

# MY ADOPTION

## LESSON TEXTS

Romans 3:23; 5:10–12; 6:17, 18; 8:17; 1 John 3:1

## MEMORY VERSE

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not” (1 John 3:1).

## TOPIC

Adoption into God’s family

## THEME

In order to be adopted into God’s family, a person must trust Christ as his or her personal Savior.

## DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Each student will recognize and thank God for his or her position in God’s family.

## OUTLINE

- I. The Original Family
  - A. The separation
  - B. Orphans

## MATERIALS

(in addition to supplies listed on page 3)

### GENERAL

- *Living My Faith* student books, lesson 1 devotions (pp. 1–4)

### BIBLE STUDY

- Copies of page 11

If no family is available, visit [showhope.org](http://showhope.org) find information about Christian families who have chosen to adopt. Choose a story to share with your students.

- II. The Adopted Family
  - A. The adoption
  - B. Adoption's benefits

**BEFORE CLASS**

Choose a portion of the History Highlights section (pp. 103–109) to present at the beginning of this week's lesson.

Invite a couple who have adopted a child to visit your class. Ask the couple to be prepared to share facts about the time, money, and energy they had to invest in the adoption. Request that they include the fact that their adopted child holds all the rights and privileges of inheritance. Encourage the parents to talk about their love for the child and to mention the type of environment from which the child was spared.

**START UP (5–10 MINUTES)**

**HISTORY HIGHLIGHT**

Spend several minutes creatively presenting your chosen person or event from the History Highlights section (p. 103–109) to your students.

**ADOPTION STORY**

Have the couple who adopted a child talk about their experience with adoption. After they have shared, review students' answers to Monday's *Living My Faith* devotions as you discuss the following questions:

- How is adoption similar to our spiritual adoption into God's family? (The child did not go looking for a new family; the parents chose to look for a child. God chose to love us when we were in a state of sin, when we didn't even desire to be in His family.)
  - How has adoption benefited the child? (The child may have been spared a life of poverty, sickness, or abuse. He or she now has many benefits: a loving family, security, an opportunity for a better situation.)
  - How does adoption into God's family benefit the believer? (We have eternal life; we are jointheirs with Christ; we have the spiritual blessings of being God's children.)



## **BIBLE STUDY (25–35 MINUTES)**

### **THE ADOPTION PROCESS**

Distribute copies of page 11. Place students in pairs or small groups. Instruct half the class to research “the original family” and the other half to research “the adopted family.” Instruct students to use the Scripture references in the Scripture Bank to find their answers. Encourage students to review Tuesday’s through Friday’s devotions.

#### **I. Original Family**

When students have finished, have the students who researched “the original family” share their answers with the class. Use the following commentary to supplement student’s answers.

##### **A. The separation**

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He gave them one simple commandment: “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it” (Gen. 2:16, 17). God clearly established that the consequence of disobedience was death.

However, when the serpent tempted Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she “took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (3:6). Adam and Eve did not die physically at that moment. However, they did die spiritually, just as God had said they would. They experienced the principle that Isaiah later recorded when he wrote, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you” (Isa. 59:2). Spiritual death is separation from God.

Adam and Eve’s spiritual death had serious consequences. The Bible records that at their first encounter with God after their sin, Adam and Eve “hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden” (Gen. 3:8). Their innocent and sinless fellowship with God had been broken.

##### **B. Orphans**

The Bible teaches that since Adam, the father of mankind, sinned and was punished by death, every person born after Adam is





punished with the same death (Rom. 5:12). While physical death is part of Adam's curse, the worst part is spiritual death—eternal separation from God. Because “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (3:23), no one is able to be in the presence of God, Who is holy (Hab. 1:12, 13). Therefore, unbelievers are orphans separated from their Heavenly Father.

## II. The Adopted Family

Have the students who researched “the adopted family” share their answers with the class. Use the following commentary to supplement students' answers.

### A. The adoption

God, in unimaginable love, provided a solution for mankind's problem. Knowing that every person after Adam would be born with a sin nature and would therefore be separated from God, God provided a way of salvation by sending His perfect Son to pay sin's price on the cross (John 3:16). Jesus' blood makes it possible for sinners to be reconciled to the Father.

Jesus died for everyone, but only those who trust in His work on the cross as payment for their sins are saved. No one is able to reconcile him- or herself to God through works (Eph. 2:8, 9).

As sinners recognize their sinful position and trust in Christ's blood alone to save them from the punishment that is rightfully theirs, they are adopted into the family of God (Gal. 4:3–5). No longer are they enemies; instead they are reconciled to God (Rom. 5:10). Instead of being servants to sin, they are now servants of righteousness (6:17, 18). Much more than just having a servant status, those who trust Christ for salvation are called children of God. Even beyond that, these adopted children are “heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (8:15).

### B. Adoption's benefits

Those who have been adopted into the family of God through Christ's blood are given “the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Rom. 8:15).

God's children are able to call out to their Heavenly Father just like a small child calls out to his or her earthly father. Believers can trust that God will supply their every need (Luke 11:11–13; 12:30, 31). Furthermore, adopted children in God's family are able to look to the future in anticipation where once they would have experienced fear. God has promised “that in the ages to come

To “reconcile” is to “restore to friendship or harmony.”

“Abba” is the equivalent of “Daddy.”

he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:7).

Perhaps John captured the wonder of this adoption truth best when he wrote, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (1 John 3:1).

Ask volunteers to summarize the contrasts between the original family and the adopted family. Have students fill in the blank half of their papers if they haven’t already done so.

### BEHOLD, WHAT MANNER OF LOVE

Recite this week’s memory verse, 1 John 3:1, together. Sing the well-known chorus “Behold, What Manner of Love” as a class. Review Saturday’s devotions, then discuss the following questions:

- How does your adoption into God’s family highlight God’s love? (He loved me when I was His enemy.)
- What is “the world”? (Our godless society’s beliefs, values, and systems of thought.)
- What does “know” mean in this verse? (To understand, to identify with.)
- How has being adopted into God’s family affected your life?
- How does being rejected by the world affect your daily life?
- What would you rather have: acceptance by God, or acceptance by the world? Why?

## **WRAP UP** (10–15 MINUTES)

### MY NEW CERTIFICATE

Direct students’ attention to the worksheet on page 8 in their *Living My Faith* student books. Explain that the language on the worksheet is similar to the language on an actual decree of adoption. Have a volunteer read Romans 8:15. Ask: How is the language of this verse similar to the language of the “Certificate of Spiritual Adoption”?



Try singing it as a round!



Encourage students to write the date (or month or year) they were saved on the “Date” line.

Remind students that only believers have been adopted into God’s family. If a student has not yet accepted Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior, that student is still a part of the original family. Invite any student who wants to learn more about becoming a child of God to speak with you or a leader. Encourage believing students to fill out their spiritual adoption certificates.

After students have completed their certificates, have students silently pray and thank God for their adoption into His family.

Encourage students to complete their *Living My Faith* devotions for week 2. Ask: What is prayer? (Talking with God.) Remind students that prayer is our opportunity to talk directly to God. Tell them that they will learn more about this privilege as they complete this week’s devotions. Remind them to bring their books to class next week.

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## ANSWERS

### to *Living My Faith*, week 1

Monday—1. Personal answers. 2. The act of voluntarily taking a child as one’s own child. 3. Adoption into God’s family.

Tuesday—1. To not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 2. They disobeyed. 3. Death passed on to everyone because of Adam’s sin.

Wednesday—1. I have sinned and come short of God’s glory. 2. Sin earns death, but God’s gift is eternal life. 3. God showed his love toward me by sending Christ to die for me while I was still a sinner.

Thursday—1. Condemnation. 2. Spirit; children; joint heirs. 3. Faultless. 4. Possible answers: hope, joy, help in times of need.

Friday—1. Enemies. 2. Peaceful. 3. Abba, Father.

Saturday—1. What manner of love the Father has bestowed on us. 2. He gave His only Son. 3. Made us alive together with Christ. 4. No; we were still sinners.

# MY ORIGINAL FAMILY

● Who is your father?

Use the "Scripture Bank" at the bottom of the page to answer the following questions. More than one verse may apply to each question. You may use the verses more than once. Record your answer and the reference that supports it.

● How did you become part of this family?

● What did you inherit from this family?

● What are the consequences of this inheritance?

**SCRIPTURE BANK**

- 1 John 3:8
- Romans 5:12
- 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22
- Romans 3:10-12
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23a
- John 3:36b

# MY ADOPTED FAMILY

● Who is your father?

Use the "Scripture Bank" at the bottom of the page to answer the following questions. More than one verse may apply to each question. You may use the verses more than once. Record your answer and the reference that supports it.

● How did you become part of this family?

● What did you inherit from this family?

● What are the consequences of this inheritance?

**SCRIPTURE BANK**

- Romans 8:14, 15
- 1 John 3:1
- Romans 5:8
- Ephesians 2:8, 9
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- John 3:16, 17
- Romans 8:1
- Jude 24