

5TH-6TH GRADE





**THIS
ADVENTURE
BELONGS TO:**



5TH-6TH GRADE

Hello Rush Creek Parents,

We are excited to present you and your children with our Rush Creek Kid's Ministry Adventure Guide! As Forerunners of the Faith, we are committed to removing obstacles that may prevent people from Finding Jesus and helping them become F.I.T. Followers. As parents, we recognize how important it is that the pursuit of this Forerunner vision begins in our homes, with our children. In Deuteronomy 6:5-7, God reminds us that we are to "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. These words (The Bible) that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

I'm so proud of our Children's Ministry team and the work they have put into helping this Forerunner vision come alive in each of our homes. This Adventure Guide was created to help you as parents, raise up F.I.T. Followers who will eventually become Forerunners of the Faith. Parents, I want to encourage you to walk alongside your children as they work through this resource and begin to discover what it means for them to be Forerunners of the Faith United to help people Find and Follow Jesus.

Serving together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Marty

F.I.T. Followers

Fill their lives with the Word of God.
Invest their lives in the Kingdom of God.
Team up with others doing the same.

ADVENTURE ESSENTIALS

You will need a few supplies to help you complete each activity.



Be sure to always grab a pencil/pen and your Bible. You may choose to use a separate journal or the extra note pages in the back of the guide.



There is a map located on page 4 & 5 of this guide. It will be your Table of Contents to locate which activity you want to complete. You can go in any order through this book.



Once you have completed an activity, be sure to have your parent or an adult put their initials on the map by the page number you completed.



Unless otherwise specified, each verse referenced is from the Christian Standard Bible translation.



Throughout the year, we will celebrate your progress on Sunday mornings. Each time you complete a section, you can bring your Adventure Guide with you to class for a reward.

Parents: Initial your child's progress as activities are completed.





Luke 3:4-6 7
Memorize Scripture

Inviting a Friend 8
Evangelism

ACTS 9
Prayer

Fasting 12
Spiritual Discipline

What is Worship? 14
Worship

Local Missions 16
Missions

Serving the church Body 18
Giving

Books of the Bible: 20
Old Testament
Bible

Ephesians 2:8-10 22
Memorize Scripture

Three Circles 23
Evangelism

Books of the Bible: 25
New Testament
Bible

Prayer Journaling 26
Prayer

Corporate Worship 28
Worship

Tithe 30
Giving

Fruit of the Spirit 32
Bible

Joshua 1:8-9 34
Memorize Scripture

Global Missions: Spain 35
Missions

Family Worship 37
Worship

Bringing Your Bible 39
Bible

Personal Testimony 41
Evangelism

Zephaniah 3:17 42
Memorize Scripture

Discovering Spiritual Gifts 43
Giving

Sermon on the Mount 45
Bible

Color the Vision Statement.

We are **FORERUNNERS**
of the **FAITH**
UNITED



to help people
FIND and **FOLLOW** Jesus

Memorize Scripture

LUKE 3:4-6

Forerunners memorize God's Word.



Explore: Open your Bible and highlight Luke 3:4-6. Read the verse aloud with an adult.



Discover: Complete the maze below by finding your way from the beginning to the center of the maze by following the correct words from the scripture.

Start Here

will	become	straight	make	his	Prepare	Prepare	the	Lord	be	filled				
will	the	paths	the	Lord	the	way	for	the	Lord	make	his			
mountain	rough	ways	the	way	for	the	Lord	the	way	for	straight			
rough	ways	straight	straight	the	Lord	make	his	paths	Every					
the	crooked	smooth	Every	salvation	the	crooked	and	hill	mountain	valley	will			
and	hill	see	the	valley	will	of	God	will	be	made	low			
mountain	and	every	valley	will	made	low	will	be	made	low	and	every		
and	hill	and	every	made	low	will	be	made	low	the	crooked	and	every	
and	hill	and	every	will	be	made	low	the	crooked	and	every	be	filled	
will	be	made	low	be	filled	salvation	of	God	the	crooked	and	every		
and	every	will	will	the	crooked	become	straight	salvation	of	God	see	the	and	hill
valley	will	the	crooked	become	straight	salvation	of	God	see	the	the	crooked	will	be
will	salvation	of	God	the	rough	ways	will	and	everyone	will	be	mountain		
be	made	low	become	the	rough	ways	will	and	everyone	will	be	make	his	
the	crooked	straight	smooth	everyone	see	the	smooth	made	low	will	be	make	his	
the	crooked	rough	ways	paths	will	paths	will	paths	the	Lord				
see	the	and	everyone	and	become	straight	will	paths	the	Lord				
salvation	of	will	become	straight	see	the	salvation	of	God	Prepare				
God	will	become	straight	see	the	salvation	of	God	Prepare					

Luke 3:4-6



Challenge: Write the verse on an index card, practice reciting the verse out loud every day this week. At the end of the week, recite the verse to an adult without using the index card.



Evangelism

INVITING A FRIEND

Forerunners invite friends and family to church.



Explore: God doesn't want us to go through life alone, so He graciously gave us friends and family members to enjoy life with, encourage one another, and to build each other up in great times and hard times. Sometimes our friends and family may not attend church or know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. God knew this would be the case, and because He wants EVERYONE in the whole wide world to be followers and know and love Him, He gave a very important job to us as Christians, people who know Jesus as their boss. Our job as Forerunners of the Faith is to tell others the Gospel, God's good news for the whole wide world. That means we need to invite our friends and family to church so they can hear more about God's good news and tell them that Jesus loves them so much that He died for all their sins.



Discover: Open your Bibles to Matthew 28:18-20. What is the command that Jesus gives to everyone?



Challenge: Talk with an adult and come up with three people that you can invite to church with you. Write their names in the boxes below and then color the boxes in when you have asked them to come to church. Remember, we cannot control their response to our question, but God does call us to be faithful in our asking.

1.	
2.	
3.	



Prayer

ACTS

Forerunners pray to God.



Explore: Prayer can be so much fun! Prayer is talking to God and listening for God to talk to us. Forerunners of the Faith pray to get close to God, and He wants us to be close to Him! God wants to hear how you feel and what you think. God guides us every day to be F.I.T. Followers and to be more like Him. He is always there and ready to listen, so you can pray whenever and however! God never gives us a busy signal or tells us to come back later. You can open up to Him and tell Him your fears, desires, joys, and when you feel sadness. He loves you so much and wants to know all the things going on in your life!

Philippians 4:6 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”





Discover: Use the ACTS prayer model as a guide through four kinds of prayer.

ADORATION

Praise God for how great He is and how loving He is.

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you. I will praise your name, for you have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. – Isaiah 25:1

CONFESSION

Tell God how sorry you are for anything you think, say, or do that breaks His laws.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9

THANKSGIVING

Thank Him for all the things He has given you and has done for you!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever. – Psalm 107:1

SUPPLICATION

Ask God to help you, your friends and family with anything you may need or want.

You will never weep again; he will show favor to you at the sound of your outcry; as soon as he hears, he will answer you. – Isaiah 30:19

Ask an adult what they would say for each one!





Challenge: Remember, Forerunners pray to praise, thank, say sorry, and ask God to help others and ourselves.

Complete the section below. Then sometime this week, find time to pray and tell God about what you wrote on this page.

Adoration: Write 3 characteristics of God that you think are awesome about Him.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Confession: Write about something you have done wrong and ask God to forgive you.

Thanksgiving: Write 3 things you can thank God for.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Supplication: Write about something that you are asking God to do for someone else, and then for yourself.



Spiritual Discipline

FASTING

Forerunners practice fasting.



Explore: What is fasting? Fasting is giving something up so we can spend more time with God through prayer and reading His Word. One of the main reasons we should fast is to grow closer to God. It is important to know that fasting doesn't change God. He is all-powerful and all-knowing no matter what we do or don't do. Instead, fasting changes us! It helps us become Forerunners of the Faith so we can help other people find and follow Jesus! When we give something up that we like or that we spend a lot of time doing and devote that time to God, we are naturally going to learn more about Him, be more aware of His presence in our lives, and even be able to hear Him speak to our hearts more clearly.



Fasting doesn't
change God.
Fasting changes us!

The time we spend fasting also helps to remind us that God is our provider. Sometimes we might be struggling with a challenge or a particular sin and fasting can help us focus our attention on God in order to overcome our struggles. Fasting is a choice we make, and it is a discipline we should practice as a believer in Jesus; it is not a punishment for something we have done wrong.

Here are the steps to practice fasting!

1. Pray to God and confess your sins.
2. Spend time reading the Bible instead of the activity you chose to give up.
3. Keep your fast between you, God, and an adult.



Before you get started though, you must choose what you are going to fast from. Grown-ups will often give up food, but this may not be the best choice for children. A good choice for you would be to pick something that takes time but isn't helpful in growing your relationship with God. Examples would be electronics, video games, unhealthy snacks or sodas, or anything that you don't need but you like or want.



Discover: There are a lot of examples of people in the Bible who fasted. Here are just a few of them:

- Moses fasted before receiving the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 34:28)
- Daniel fasted to understand a vision. (Daniel 9:1-19)
- David fasted to mourn the loss of loved ones. (2 Samuel 12)
- Jesus fasted in the wilderness when He was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11).

Get your Bible and look up one of these stories to discover more about fasting.



Challenge: Talk to an adult about if they have ever fasted. Find out what they did and how that helped them experience the power of God.

Now, think about what you could fast from in order to grow closer to God. List three ideas below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Go Further: For an extra challenge, pick one of the ideas you listed and practice fasting sometime this week.



Worship

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Forerunners worship God.

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell about his wondrous works.”

– Psalm 105:1-2



Explore: What is worship? Sometimes we can think of worship as singing songs in church together, but it is so much more than that. According to Webster’s Dictionary, worship is defined as “to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission”. In case you are curious, extravagant means a whole, whole bunch and submission means doing what someone else wants us to do because they are in charge. Forerunners of the Faith are supposed to honor God with extravagant love and extreme submission. We are called to love God with an overflowing amount of love and obey and listen to Him in all things. Worship is putting God at the top of our list and making sure He is the most important thing in our life. As Forerunners of the Faith, we are called to worship God with everything that we have.

How can Forerunners of the Faith do this?

- Sing songs that honor Him while driving in the car
- Give an offering or tithe at church
- Walk around in nature and thank God for all He has created
- Participate in corporate worship at church
- Pray to God
- Read your Bible

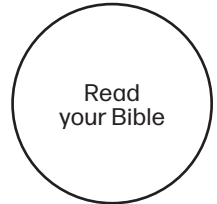


Discover: Ask an adult how they choose to worship God. Tell us about it:





Challenge: Look at the ways we can worship God. Pick two of the ways to worship God and complete them. After you are finished, color in the bubbles that correspond to the ways you worshipped God.



Write about one of the ways you worshipped God. How did it make you feel? Was it hard or easy?



Missions

LOCAL MISSIONS

Forerunners are on mission for God.



Explore: Read Isaiah 58:10 and John 13:12-17

As a follower and forerunner for Jesus, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those who are in need. We want to be Forerunners of the Faith who help others find and follow Jesus. When Jesus came to the earth, He showed us the ultimate example of what it looks like to be a servant and love others. We are called to follow His example and to serve others. There are so many ways to get involved in our community. Rush Creek provides partners lots of ways to serve and connects with several organizations in the community.



Church Partnerships

Compassion Center at Rush Creek provides resources and relief for those in need in our community. This includes backpack meals, the food pantry, and other classes and resources.

Handley Hope Center is a ministry of Rush Creek Church, resides in the heart of the Handley community, and provides resources, services and wellness in order to transform the neighborhood.

Operation Joy is a ministry of Rush Creek Church that provides Christmas gifts for families in our community. This is possible due to the generosity of the people of Rush Creek.

Great Turkey Take Away delivers Thanksgiving Meals to families in Fort Worth, Arlington, Mansfield, Grand Prairie, and Kennedale.



Community Partnerships

Allies in Youth engages orphans through nurturing friendships, modeling biblical love, and providing education.

Salvation Army exists to meet human need wherever, whenever, and however we can.

Mission Arlington is a faith-based organization which utilizes hundreds of volunteers and a multitude of services to assist people with their physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Beautiful Feet Ministries shares the love of Christ by reaching out to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the poor and homeless in Fort Worth, Texas.





Discover: Review the list on the previous page and write down the name of an organization or ministry you would be interested in learning more about.

Now, have an adult help you look up the ministry online to learn more about it! Write something new that you learned about your chosen ministry.



Challenge: Put what you have learned into action! Have an adult help you choose a way to serve with one of the ministries above and pick a time over the next few weeks to volunteer with them at least once. You will have to visit their website and call ahead to see when and how you can help! Once you serve, write where you served, the date, and a few sentences about your experience.



Giving

SERVING THE CHURCH BODY

Forerunners give back to God.



Explore: In the Bible, Paul points out that God has purposefully made each of us unique. He never intended for us to all be the same. We all have many gifts and as Forerunners of the Faith, we are called to serve the body of Christ to help others find and follow Jesus. Being Forerunners calls us to serve and love others like Jesus did. Did you know that at Rush Creek we have something called Servants Heart? You don't have to wait until you're an adult to serve the church! Rush Creek has many areas where you can start serving.

"Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ." – Colossians 3:23-24

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith." – Galatians 6:10



Discover: If you are already serving in Servants Heart, write why you love to serve. If you would like to see a list of areas, head to rushcreek.org/serve.

If you do not currently serve, write down 2 areas you would be interested in serving and why.



Bible

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT

Forerunners read the Bible.



Explore: The Bible is one complete truth, divided up into different sections. It is organized into books, chapters, and verses to help us understand it better. It starts by being broken up into 2 bigger sections the Old Testament and New Testament. The Old Testament it is divided into 4 sections law, history, poetry, and prophets.

Let's look at the Minor Prophets also known as "The 12": Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. They are called the Minor Prophets only because their books are shorter in length, not less important. The minor prophets are an assortment of individuals. They were dirt poor, others were professionals, and some were even priests. God was trying very hard to get Israel's attention, that these prophets were sent back-to-back over a 400-year span.



Discover: Get 12 index cards or strips of paper, write down the names of each Minor Prophet on the top of the card (one per card). Bookmark the Minor Prophets in your Bible with the cards you just made. Place the cards to where you can still see the name of each book. Say the names in order, out loud 3-5 times. When you feel like you have them memorized, take the cards out, mix them up, and try to put them back in the right order.





Challenge: Can you memorize all of the books of the Bible? Practice by singing, dancing or writing down the books of the Bible in order. Make sure to practice enough so that you can recite the books of the Bible in order to your leader on a Sunday morning.

Fit the names of all twelve Minor Prophets into the puzzle.

HOSEA JONAH ZEPHANIAH
 JOEL MICAH HAGGAI
 AMOS NAHUM ZECHARIAH
 OBADIAH HABAKKUK MALACHI

Scan the QR code to find more resources to help you memorize the books of the Bible.



Memorize Scripture

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Forerunners memorize God's Word.



Explore: Open your Bible and highlight Ephesians 2:8-10. Read the verse aloud with an adult.



Discover: Fill in the remainder of each word below to complete the scripture passage to memorize this week. Try to fill in as many words as you can without looking at the verse in your Bible. Then go back and check your work and fill in any of the words you may have missed.

F____ y____ a____ s____ b____
 g____ t____ f____,
 a____ t____ i____ n____ f____
 y____; i____ i____ G____
 g____ - n____ f____ w____, s____
 t____ n____ o____ c____ b____. F____
 w____ a____ h____ w____,
 c____ i____ C____ J____
 f____ g____ w____, w____ G____
 p____ a____ o____ t____
 f____ u____ t____ d____.



Challenge: Practice memorizing the verse 3 days this week. On the 4th day, try to write the entire scripture passage from memory without looking it up in your Bible.



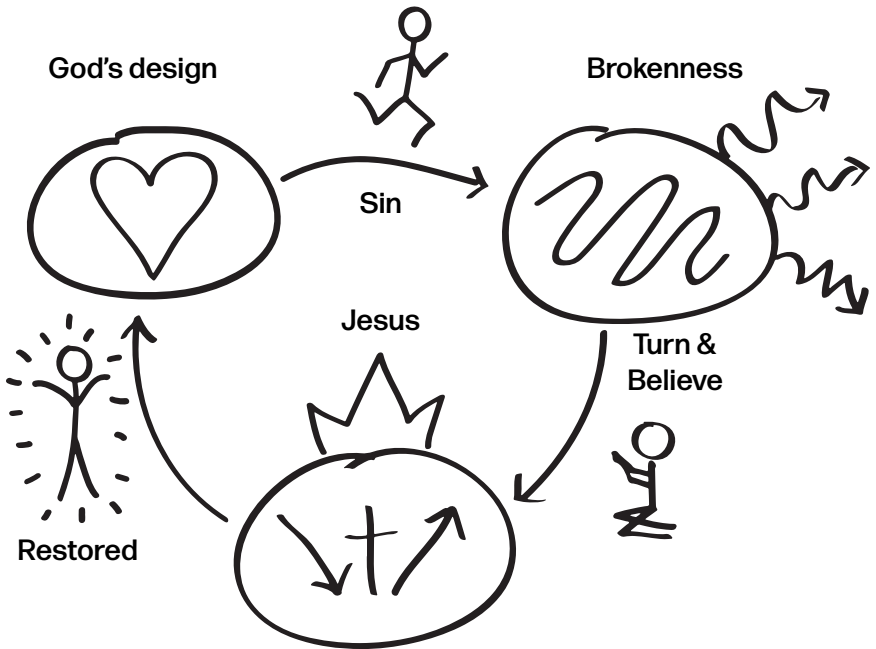
Evangelism

THREE CIRCLES

Forerunners talk about Jesus.



Explore: As Forerunners of the Faith, sharing that we believe in Jesus and that He died on the cross for our sins is a very important part of being a Christian. It can also be a very scary part because we do not know how people will react. However, the more we practice telling others about Jesus and living our lives in a way that shows people we love Jesus, the easier it will become. The 3 Circles is an easy way to tell others the good news of Jesus.



Discover: Scan this QR code to watch a video explaining the 3 Circles. Make sure to answer the questions on the next page after you watch.





Challenge: Look up Romans 3:23 and write it on the lines below.

What is one sin that you have been using to try to fill the hole in your life? Write your answer below and then ask an adult the same question.



Bible

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: NEW TESTAMENT

Forerunners read the Bible.



Explore: Did you know there are 27 books in the New Testament? They are the Gospels, History, Letters, and Prophecy. The first 4 are the Gospels followed by Acts, which is a book of history. The 22 books that follow Acts are the letters written to churches and specific people, also known as The Epistles. The first 14 are the letters written by Paul and the next 7 were written by different authors. Last, we have Revelation, a book of prophecy. Paul is an example of a Forerunner of the faith united to help people.



Discover: Read Revelation 21:1-7. We might not know exactly what Heaven will look like, but the description from this passage gives us a little insight on how much joy there will be. It can be hard to understand at times, but as followers of Christ, we can take hope in the fact that we will have life after death in Heaven with God.

To understand Revelation a little bit better, scan this QR code to watch a video made by The Bible Project.



Challenge: Make sure you practice memorizing the books of the Bible in order to recite them to your leader on a Sunday morning. If you would like to learn a song to help you memorize the books of the Bible, go to page 21 and scan the QR code.



Prayer

PRAYER JOURNALING

Forerunners pray to God.



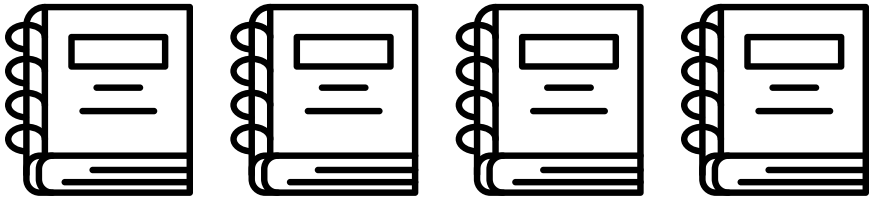
Explore: Forerunners can write, speak, and even think what we want to communicate to God. God hears us and understands us. Writing your prayers in a journal is a good way to keep from getting distracted so you don't forget what you're praying for. Being able to look back through your journal of prayers will be cool because you can see how God heard and answered your prayers.



Discover: Have you ever wondered how different people in the Bible prayed? Read Mark 5:21-43 to see an example of how Jairus asked God to heal his daughter and how God answered Jairus' prayers.



Challenge: Do your best to use your journal each day this week when you pray. Color in a notebook below each time you use your journal to pray. Use the ACTS Prayer model on page 10 to help guide you on the next page or in a journal.



Worship

CORPORATE WORSHIP

Forerunners worship God.



Explore: There are many types of churches around the world that worship God in different ways. As Forerunners of the Faith, we believe that corporate worship helps people find and follow Jesus. At Rush Creek Church, each element of our worship service has an important purpose:

1. Worship Songs

We sing worship songs together aloud. These songs have lyrics that help us praise God and pray to Him. People can stand up, sit down, raise their hands, clap their hands, or even dance along to the music.

“My mouth is full of praise and honor to you all day long.” – Psalm 71:8

2. Sermon

One of our amazing pastors here at Rush Creek will preach a sermon. It always includes reading out of the Bible and almost always includes funny stories to help us remember what we are learning.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.” – 2 Timothy 3:16

3. Offering

In each of our worship centers, there are offering boxes available for families to honor God by giving a tithe or an offering. Make sure to look for these boxes at your campus.

“Each person should do as he has decided in his heart- not reluctantly or out of compulsion, since God loves a cheerful giver.” – 2 Corinthians 9:7



4. The Lord's Supper

Rush Creek participates in the Lord's Supper often. This is when we remember and honor the sacrifice that Jesus made when He died on the cross for our sins.

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." – 1 Corinthians 11:26

5. Baptism

Although baptism doesn't usually happen every week, this is a very important part of our faith. People who have chosen to follow Jesus and make Him the leader of their life show the church that decision by being baptized. Some are dunked into the water and then raised back up to symbolize their new life.

"Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." – Acts 2:38

We have additional information about baptism and the Lord's Supper on the website for your family to use. Scan this QR code to access it.



Challenge: Attend a Sunday morning worship service 3 times with your family and record the dates below. Ask an adult to visit rushcreek.org/kids and click on the Adventure Guide logo to find Printable Sermon Notes for Kids. You can print them ahead of time to help you stay focused and remember what you are learning.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Giving

TITHING

Forerunners give back to God.



Explore: Have you ever wondered what tithing is? Do you wonder why people give part of their money to the church? A tithe is giving 10% of the money you earn to the local church. While it's important to give of your talents and time by doing things like serving in the compassion center or baking cookies for your neighbor, the word tithing refers to giving money. Everything we have comes from the Lord, and God wants us to be Forerunners who are generous with what He gives us. He doesn't need our money, but the Bible tells us that tithing is a way to show God that we trust Him with our lives. By giving, we can be obedient to God.



The word "tithe" literally means "tenth" in Hebrew.



Discover: Read the scriptures below and answer the questions.

Leviticus 27:30: How much should we give?

Proverbs 3:9: What part of the money we get should go to the Lord?

2 Corinthians 9:6-8: How should we give?





Offering

God says to give what we can.



Tithing

God says to tithe 10% of our income.

God calls us as Christians to be generous. As Forerunners of the Faith, we need to be generous with our time, talents, and money so we can help others find and follow Jesus. If you're having trouble with the idea of tithing or giving money to the church, then spend time asking God to give you wisdom and to show you ways that you can be more generous by helping those around you. Is tithing something you already practice? Why or why not? Write out a prayer to God about how you plan to be more generous with your money.



Challenge: Practice Tithing! Set up a jar in your house where you will see it often. Whenever you receive money (allowance, chores, birthday money, etc.), take 10% of your money and put it in the jar. At the end of the month, bring it to church to put in the offering bucket. Write below about your giving experience. How did it make you feel to give your tithe back to God?



Bible

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” – Galatians 5:22-23



Explore: In Luke 6:44 it says, “Each tree is recognized by its own fruit”. As Christians, we don’t have to guess what our “own fruit” is. We are told that we are supposed to be trees that have the fruit of the Spirit. This fruit helps us identify with Christ, and it shows others the way to Jesus by being more like Him.

Love is mentioned first in this verse and is a very important character trait to work on showing to others. True love isn’t about how you feel. It is something you do. You can love someone even if they hurt your feelings or act like they don’t love you. God loves you so much that even when you aren’t doing things right, He still loves you! He still loves you! He loves you so much He wants you to be a part of His family. God wants you to love Him even more than you love your family. When you love God, you are showing love to everyone.

**Discover:**

Do you know someone who loves you?

Who is someone you love?

What does it mean to love others?





Challenge: Write down 3 ways you have shown someone you love them. It can be in your house, to a friend, or extended family.

Examples: Send a card in the mail to your grandmother letting her know you love and appreciate her, help mom or dad around the house, offer to help a sibling with their homework.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

For extra fun this week, find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

D G O O D N E S S Z U Y D R G T K T
 G P I G B U O J E R T B K T U P I T
 C L E W L O T I S L I G I V S E N E
 L F O A Y Y V T G J F W T D M Y D O
 N W S V C Y E O Z O M C P G X P N Y
 C I N K E E W A B Y D A O V A W E D
 R D T G H I M K R X Y J Q N M C S A
 A F A I T H F U L N E S S G T M S O
 M F T G B O P A T I E N C E K R O E
 J N B O A O M V R Q K X S H I V O U
 W T X G E N T L E N E S S Y P X Q L
 H N J L M J U X O K Y K Y F G P G G

FAITHFULNESS
 GENTLENESS
 GOODNESS

KINDNESS
 LOVE
 PATIENCE

SELF-CONTROL



Memorize Scripture

JOSHUA 1:8-9

Forerunners memorize God's Word.



Explore: Open your Bible and highlight Joshua 1:8-9. Read the verse aloud with an adult.



Discover: Use the key to decode the verse by letter to reveal the scripture passage to memorize this week.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

This _____ of instruction must not

 _____ from your _____; you are to

 meditate on it _____ and _____ so that you

 may carefully observe _____

 written in it. For then you will prosper and

_____ in whatever you do. Haven't I

 commanded you: be _____ and courageous?

Do not be _____ or discouraged, for the

 _____ your _____ is with _____

 wherever you go.



Challenge: Write the verse on an index card and practice reciting the verse out loud every day this week. At the end of the week, recite the verse to an adult without using the index card.



Missions

GLOBAL MISSIONS: SPAIN

Forerunners are on mission for God.



Explore: Read Matthew 28:19-20.

Rush Creek connects with and supports many mission partners around the world. Part of the money you give to the church goes to support these mission partners and helps them to bring the light of Jesus to the whole world! We believe that being a Forerunner of the Faith united to help people find and follow Jesus means helping people find Jesus all over the world.



Discover: Did you know one of our mission partners lives in Spain? Let's learn a little bit about Joel and Magaly and their two kids, Joel (22 years old) and Raquel (13 years old).

The Villarroels serve in El Campello, Spain as church planters. Joel also works part-time as an electrician to support their family. They have planted 4 other churches across Spain and are already making a huge difference in their new city. El Campello is located on the Mediterranean Sea in what was once a fishing village. The city has transitioned to a vacation destination for many Spaniards

and is a retirement location for many people across Europe. The local people live in low-income households that struggle to have enough money to pay for all their needs. Spain has the largest percentage of people in all of Europe that do not have a relationship with Jesus. Christ-followers are usually met with skepticism and struggle to build relationships once a person discovers they follow Jesus. Pray for their family and their small congregation to be a lighthouse for Jesus in Spain.



We have chocolate because of the Spaniards! The cacao bean was taken from the Americas and brought back to Spain.





Challenge: Make something while using chocolate with your family, and then enjoy its deliciousness (or share it with a neighbor or a friend). One of our favorites is chocolate chip cookies, but you can also make chocolate cake, chocolate pudding, or anything else that contains chocolate.

As you are eating your chocolate dessert with your family, pray for the Villarroel family. Ask God to protect the Villarroel family and to give them boldness to have conversations with people in their community so others can find and follow Jesus!



Worship

FAMILY WORSHIP

Forerunners worship God.

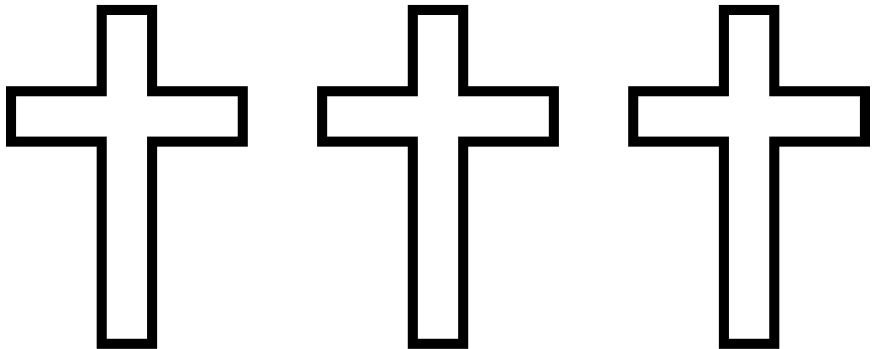
“These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” – Deuteronomy 6:6-7



Explore: At Rush Creek, we want families to spend time with Jesus and worship together in their own homes. This can look different for every family. Some families set aside one night a week to engage with one another and learn about a specific Bible passage or Bible story. Others may read from a devotional every morning or night together. The Bible emphasizes the importance of worshipping God and also teaches us that it is your parent’s responsibility to teach you and lead you into worship. Spending time worshipping Jesus together as a family is one of the ways your family can be Forerunners of the Faith.



Challenge: Worship together with your family three separate times and color in one cross for each time you worship together. Remember, this can look like reading your Bible together, singing a worship song together, and praying together.





Discover: Write down one aspect of family worship that you really enjoyed and what made it so special.



Bible

BRINGING YOUR BIBLE

Forerunners read the Bible.



Explore: Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 4:4, John 1:1

There are so many scripture verses that talk about the word of God and how important it is in our lives. You just read a few scriptures above on why we need the word of God.

Why should you bring your Bible to Rush Creek Church? You know they're going to read it out loud, put it on the screen and maybe even have one you can borrow, right? Sure they will, but bringing your Bible on Sunday is useful in more ways than one.

When you bring your Bible to Rush Creek, it will:

- Help you retain what you hear
- Help you learn to find truth yourself
- Help you learn to be personal with God
- Serve as an example to others
- Help you grow your own faith

All of these things will help you build your own love for God and His Word.



Discover: As a Forerunner of the Faith, can you think of another reason why bringing your Bible would be helpful?

Write which Bible verse from today's reading was your favorite.



Can you find another verse in the Bible that talks about the Word of God?



Challenge: Bring your Bible to Rush Creek 5 times and write the dates below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Evangelism

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Forerunners share their story.



Explore: Sharing our testimony or our story is very important. Our story is how God has saved us and chose us to be a forerunner for Him. It also displays a major change in our life. Our story should consist of our life before we knew Jesus, why we made the decision to follow Jesus, and how our life looks after Jesus became our Savior. Everyone's story looks different, but there can be common themes throughout our stories about how God changed our lives.



Discover: Scan the QR code and go online to watch one of our testimonies. Note how their story is broken into the same three parts: how their life was before they knew Jesus, why they decided to follow Jesus, and how their life looks now as a Forerunner who follows Jesus.

**Challenge:**

1. Open your Bible and read Romans 10:14. What does this verse tell us we must do?

2. Although you may not have all three parts to your story, which parts of your story do you know? Write it here.



Memorize Scripture

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Forerunners memorize God's Word.



Explore: Open your Bible and highlight Zephaniah 3:17. Read the verse aloud with an adult.



Discover: Use a small object to cover up a few words at a time. Read the verse and try to say the part that is hidden without removing the object.

The Lord your God
 is among you,
 a warrior who saves.
 He will rejoice over
 you with gladness.
 He will be quiet
 in his love. He
 will delight in
 you with singing.



Challenge: Practice memorizing the verse 3 days this week. On the 4th day, try to write the entire scripture passage from memory without looking it up in your Bible.



Giving

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Forerunners give back to God.



Explore: The Bible teaches that when we believe in Jesus and make Him boss of our life, He gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us. The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts to use to serve and encourage other people and our church. These gifts help us live out the calling to be Forerunners of the Faith helping people find and follow Jesus.



Discover: Read Ephesians 4:7-16, Romans 12:3-8, and 1 Peter 4:9-10 and then do the activity below.

Use the code to find some examples of spiritual gifts.

to speak God's message in sermons

to help other people learn from the Bible

to share money and other things to help in God's work

to notice people's needs and try to meet them

to see other people's abilities and encourage them to use them

to help people work together to do God's work by assigning a job to each person

Code:

A C E G H I L N O P R T U V Z



Bible

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Forerunners read the Bible.



Explore: The Sermon on the Mount is found in Matthew 5-7, this sermon took place at the beginning of Jesus ministry and was one of the longest recorded in the New Testament. Jesus wasn't a pastor of a church like we have today, so His sermons didn't look the same as what we are used to. Jesus would draw hundreds and sometimes thousands of followers who would come to listen to him. One day while Jesus and His disciples were traveling near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus decided to talk to His disciples about what it looked like to be a Forerunner of the Faith and how to follow him and serve as a kingdom of God. The Sermon on the Mount represent some of the major ideas of living a Christian lifestyle.

Some of the main lessons were:

- Be a light in a dark world. (Matthew 5:1-6)
- Be good because God is good. It's not enough to just follow the rules. (Matthew 5: 17-48)
- Be genuine. Obeying God is not about getting attention. (Matthew 6:1-18)
- Live a rich and generous life by being with God. (Matthew 6:19-7:12)
- Make the wise choice to listen and be obedient. (Matthew 7: 13-28)



Discover: Scan the QR code to watch a video that will help you understand all the different stories Jesus uses to teach us.





Challenge: Read a chapter a day from Matthew 5-7. Once you have read all 3 chapters, answer the following questions.

Which of the lessons mentioned above do you feel like applies to your life the most right now?

How can you use this sermon to help be a better follower of Jesus? Write your answer below and share it with an adult.







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