

GRADE Four
CHAPTER One
God's Plan

Objectives

- Understand God's plan for creation
- Explore what God said about all he had made
- Learn about the words providence, Scripture and revelation
- Learn about Jonah and Mary of Nazareth
- Decide what God's plan is for you

Step One: Invite: Name your personal experience, pp. 41-43

- Pray the opening prayer of Chapter One on p. 41
- Read the poem about Creation on pp. 42-43. Ask yourself: What are some of the ways God shows his love through creation? What does it mean that everything God created is good? After reading the poem, how would you describe God?
- Discuss your thoughts on the questions above
- Read the "Share Your Faith" activity on p. 43 and as a family create the postcard design of how God's creation shows God's love and care.
- Together answer the question: What do you think is God's plan for the world?

Step Two: Explore: Understand the meaning of God's Word and Teaching pp. 44-48

- Read the story of Jonah and the Big Fish on pp. 44. Using the Words of Faith section on p. 45, talk about the meaning of the words, providence, Scripture and revelation.
- Together answer the questions:
 - o How did God's providence include Jonah's experience?
 - o Is it possible to avoid God's plan for your life? What happened when Jonah tried to avoid God's plan?
 - o What do we learn about God by reading Jonah's story?
 - o Read the Scripture, 2Samuel 7: 12-17, found in the Old Testament and see if you can find the ways in which God's providence cared for the people of Israel.
 - o Have you ever experienced God's providence?
- God had a plan to bring Jesus into the world, but he needed a woman of faith to cooperate with him. Read about Mary, the Mother of Jesus on p. 48, and talk about how Mary cooperated with God's plan. What were the qualities Mary needed in order to be able to hear God's plan and to cooperate with it?
- Discuss the caption question, "What do you think is God's plan for you?," on p. 45
- Each family member draw a picture of the plan you believe God has for your life. Are you cooperating with that plan?

Step Three: Celebrate: Offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving, p. 48

- Discuss the ways you have said "yes" to God this week.
- Using the prayer to Mary on p. 48, pray together as a family

Faith Activities: Tips

- Throughout each chapter, there will be sections marked “Activity.”
- Feel free to choose as many activities as you wish to share with your family. At a minimum, choose one activity above and beyond what might be mentioned in Steps 1-3.
- Follow the directions for the activity, share popcorn or a treat, relax and enjoy it.
- Post any artwork until the next lesson and then use the next chapter’s activity to take its place.
- Throughout each chapter, there will be sections marked “Activity.”
- Feel free to choose as many activities as you wish to share with your family. At a minimum, choose one activity above and beyond what might be mentioned in Steps 1-3.
- Follow the directions for the activity, share popcorn or a treat, relax and enjoy it.
- Post any artwork until the next lesson and then use the next chapter’s activity to take its place.
- Post any artwork until the next lesson and then use the next chapter’s activity to take its place.