

TABLE TALK



WEEK NINE

MON: ALL ABOUT GOD

TUES: JESUS TAUGHT US

WED: PEOPLE

THURS: THANKSGIVING

FRI: THE WORLD



MONDAY : ALL ABOUT GOD

Everyday we do little things which protect us – we might not even realise we’re doing them. Like wearing our seatbelts in the car, wearing our mask and washing our hands, even brushing our teeth! All of these things are little ways we protect ourselves and others. Can you think of a time you needed to be protected?

In the Bible we read about lots of times God protected his people.
Can you think of any?

“Do not withhold your mercy from me, O Lord; may Your love and Your truth always protect me.” Psalm 40:11

In this Bible verse, what protects us? God’s L _ _ _ _ &
God’s T _ _ _ _ _

God loves us so he sent his Son to die on the cross – protecting us from the punishment our sins deserve. Then, God’s truth, which we read in the Bible, teaches us that Jesus is the only way to be saved – protecting us from false gods or false teaching.

God’s love and God’s truth protect us from the punishment we should face because of our sins.

PRAY

Praise God that he protects those who believe in and follow him. Thank God for his love and his truth which he uses to protect us. Thank God that one of the things he protects us from is the punishment we should face because of our sins. Instead, Jesus has paid the price and we can be forgiven.

TUESDAY : JESUS TAUGHT US

In the Bible there is a famous story Jesus told called The Prodigal Son or The Lost Son. Do you know this story? Can you retell it? If you don't know the story you can read it in Luke 15:11-32.

A man has two sons. One day, the younger son asks his Dad to give him his inheritance early. This must have really upset the Dad - it was like wishing him dead! - but he agrees and gives his son what he asked for.

The son leaves his fathers house and quickly spends his money doing things which make him happy. But, pretty soon, he runs out of money. Penniless, he ends up working on a pig farm! He's so hungry that he wants to eat the food the pigs eat! The son realises that he had been very stupid. He thinks 'even the servants in my Dad's house have lots food to eat'. So, he decides to go home and see if he can become a servant in his Dad's house and he begins a long walk home.

When he is nearly there, his Dad sees him walking towards the house. How do you think he felt? His son had really upset him! But let's read what happened:

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. He felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him, and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get our fat calf and kill it. Then we can have a feast and celebrate! My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to celebrate." – Luke 15:20-24

How did the Dad react when he saw his son?

The son had done lots of things wrong – instead of punishing him, what did the Dad do?

This is just like us. Just like the son, we decide to live our life's our way, doing things which are wrong and that upset God. But, if we realise our mistake and turn back to God, just like the Dad in the story, God will welcome us back, forgive our sins and celebrate!

PRAY

Praise God that he forgives us for our sins. Thank God that even though we don't deserve it, he loves us and welcomes us home!

WEDNESDAY : PEOPLE

On Wednesdays we're looking at the lives of different people in God's family. So far, we've looked at people who lived in the past, but today we are going to learn about and pray for a lady called Mariam who lives in North Africa.

Across the world people's lives are being changed because of COVID-19. In North Africa, the difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been added to the pressure Christians already faced. In North Africa, Islam is the most popular religion, and Christians can be targeted because of their faith by the government, their communities and their families. COVID has made things worse. Now Christians can't go to Church, learn about God or be supported by other Christians. People feel scared, lost and confused.

Mariam saw this on social media.

"I saw a lot of people on social media with anxiety because of the coronavirus," she says.

"Some people explain the Bible differently and believe the coronavirus is a punishment from God. Another feared that he was too far off from God to be forgiven."

Mariam decided to do something to help. Her and a team of other people, started posting daily devotionals online for people to listen to. They read the Bible, discuss what they can learn from it and pray together. They want people to know that, despite the horrible situation, God is still a God who loves and cares for them.

Despite living in a part of the world where Islam is the popular religion and where women aren't given the same amount of opportunities, Mariam's devotionals are now listened to by over 3,000 people!

Mariam and her team have also been able to use social media as a way of talking to people about God. One person they've been speaking to is Nizalah*. She doubted God's love for her, but today she can say:

"Now I know deep in my heart that I am not saved by my own acts but by grace. I learned the difference between mercy and grace, but also that there is nothing I can do to make God's love even more for me, because He already loves me to the max."

In a desperate situation where it would have been natural and easy to just worry about herself, Mariam has used social media as a way of teaching people about God and encouraging them to follow him!



Pray that Mariam and her team will be able to reach many more vulnerable believers through social media. Pray that God will use this project to speak assurance, peace and love to His children. Ask God for protection against persecution for Christian women in North Africa.

THURSDAY : THANKSGIVING

You made my whole being.
You formed me in my mother's body. I
praise you because you made me in an
amazing and wonderful way.
What you have done is wonderful.
I know this very well.
Psalm 139

The Bible tells us that God made each of us. Everything about us – the way we look, the gifts we have, the things we're good at and the things we're not so good at – are all that way because that's how God designed us! Sometimes we can wish we were different, good at something else or more like a certain person, but God made us the way we are for a reason even if we don't know what that reason is yet. God made us and he loves us!

Let's thank God for making us the way we are. Thank him for loving us! Ask God to help you learn more about why God made you the way you – the way you look, the gifts you have, and the things you're good and not so good at!



FRIDAY : THE WORLD

“*First, I tell you to pray for all people. Ask God for the things people need, and be thankful to him. - 1 Timothy 2:1***”**

On Fridays we learn and pray for the world around us. Instead of praying for one country, today we are going to pray for two of places where something bad has happened recently. Sometimes, looking at these things can make us sad or scared (or both!) but we can remember that God is in control. No matter how bad something might seem, we can be comforted by knowing that God still loves us and has a plan for us. So, let's pray for these places:

Beirut, Lebanon

On the 4th of August a big explosion happened in Beirut. Over 200 lost their lives and thousands of people are injured. Lots of the city, including people's homes and churches, were destroyed. The people of Beirut volunteered to help each other, providing food and shelter to people whilst cleaning up the city. Pray for the people living in Beirut, the volunteers and their government. Ask God to comfort those who are injured, have lost loved ones or lost their homes. Ask God to help Christians in Beirut bring comfort to the city.

East Asia

Over the last few weeks, different areas in East Asia, especially in India and Nepal, have had heavy rain resulting in big floods. Even though it is normal for these areas to get heavy rain during monsoon season, every year the rain is getting heavier and the floods are getting worse. These floods have caused landslides, washed away people's homes and destroyed their crops and livestock. Pray for the people who have been affected. Ask God to protect them and help them get the help they need. Ask God to give wisdom to their governments and guide volunteers who come to help.

Remember God is always in control - God always loves and protects us - God is always with us.