

Welcome to the Bloom! Each week as part of your JellyTelly membership, you'll receive this easy-to-use family devotional guide to help your family grow closer to God and each other. Feel free to use it as we suggest, or make it your own! For more information about the heart behind the Bloom and ways to customize it for your family, visit jellytelly.com/thebloom.



Memory Verse

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

JOHN 13:35

MONDAY

THE WORD OF GOD

GOD'S PROMISED SON
GENESIS 3:15

You've probably heard about Jesus (especially since we just celebrated his birthday at Christmas), but did you know that he is the answer to a promise God made a long time ago? When God created everything, all that he made was good. He made a special garden called Eden and asked Adam and Eve to take care of it, and to let their family grow until it filled the whole earth. But instead of listening to God, they listened to Satan (who spoke to them through a serpent) and chose to disobey God. Their disobedience changed everything. When they disobeyed, they let pain and suffering and sin and sadness into the world. God wanted the earth to be perfect, a place where people could live forever, but God loved Adam and Eve too much to let them—or anyone—live forever in a sad and broken world. He could have given up, started all over—but he didn't. God loved his creation so much that he promised that someday a woman would have a child who would defeat the serpent and fix everything that was broken. Adam and Eve didn't know it at the time, but the child God promised would be named “Jesus” (which means “savior”) and he would save his people from the biggest enemy they faced—the enemy of sin that separates them from God—and that someday he would even defeat the enemy of death.

TUESDAY

KNOW GOD

THE STORY OF GOD (AD)

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN ANCIENT ROME (50-70 AD)

The Bible ends with Jesus' disciples spreading the Good News about Jesus all over the ancient world – but that wasn't an easy thing to do. The Roman Empire was growing rapidly and the people in charge did not like the new Christians, because they told people to worship God instead of the emperor! In the year 64, a huge fire broke out in the city of Rome. The emperor at the time was a very mean man named Nero who blamed the whole thing on the Christians! He began to persecute them. Persecute means to treat someone very badly because of their faith. Many of the new Christians were killed because they believed in Jesus, including some of Jesus' disciples. The apostle Paul wrote letters to churches around the Roman Empire to encourage them during the early years of the persecution, and you can read those letters in the books of Romans – Philemon in the Bible. In the year 70 AD, the Roman army stormed into the city of Jerusalem and burned down the temple, where many of God's people worshipped. It was not easy to be a Christian in the early days of the church, but God's people had hope because of Jesus. They knew that God promised them that the kingdom of God was coming! The story of God's people is full of twists and turns, heroes and villains, good times and bad times – but through all of history, we know that God is in charge and that His kingdom will come!

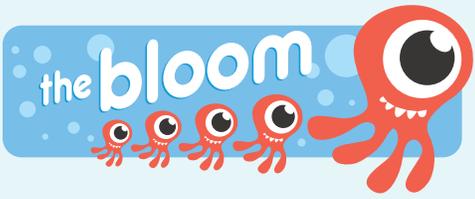
WEDNESDAY

TALK TO GOD

Let's take this time to pray to God and talk to Him about the things that are on our minds and hearts. Let's ask Him to make us aware of the needs of the other people in our hearts. Let's fill out the *Praying For* card on page 2. Here are some questions to get us started:

- Who can we pray for this week?
- What is something that is making you sad or upset? Can we talk to God about it?





THURSDAY

THANK GOD

Let's think about some of the blessings and beautiful things we have experienced this week and write them down on our Thankful For card (below). Then let's pray the Lord's Prayer!

Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever,
Amen.

FRIDAY

REFLECT WITH GOD

God is with us everyday and in everything! We all have good days and bad days, and it is important to reflect on the times that we feel God's presence and also the times we need God. Reflecting on our walk with God allows us to see more clearly how He is working in our lives.

Parents, you can use this time to listen to and share with your children. You may want to ask these questions daily at dinner or before bed, or ask them on a weekly basis. You could also record everyone's answers in a journal so you can reflect on how God is working in your lives over the course of the year.

- What happened today that you are most thankful for?
- What happened today that you are least thankful for or was tough for you?
- What was one way you showed love or kindness today?
- What was one way you received love or kindness today?

What We Are Thankful For:



Lined writing area for 'What We Are Thankful For' with a decorative wavy border.

Who We Are Praying For:



Lined writing area for 'Who We Are Praying For' with a decorative wavy border.