God’s Big Story: Choose Life!

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| scripture focus |
| Exodus 16-20; Deuteronomy 30 |

big picture

After Moses led the Israelites out from Egypt and into the wilderness, they had to learn to live as free people, choosing to trust and follow God, rather than as slaves who had to do exactly as they were told. It wasn’t easy! Again and again, they forgot what God had done for them and chose fear over trust; but God continued to faithfully provide exactly what they needed. Finally, God gave them one of the greatest gifts of all: the Law. The Law was a gift because it showed the Israelites exactly how they should live in order to experience life and happiness and God’s blessing in the Promised Land. Moses preached that the Law wasn’t too hard to understand, and it laid out a clear path to full life, if only the Israelites walked in it. The same is true for us – following God’s rules is the best way to live a full and happy life. The sad story of the Israelites – and us – is that we can’t and won’t choose life on our own. We fail to follow the Law, and therefore the Law can’t save us. Instead, it shows us that we need something (or Someone) else to rescue us and gift us with the life we can’t get on our own.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* p.100-107  (“Ten Ways to be Perfect”)  *Psalms for Young Children:*  Psalms 1, 27, 86, 104, 143 | Exodus 16-17:7, 19:1-6, 20:1-17  Deuteronomy 30:11-20  Psalms 1, 19, 104, 119 (any stanza) |
| discuss/ ask | How did God take care of the Israelites in the wilderness? Why do you think it was so hard for them to trust God, even when God kept on taking care of them?  How has God taken care of you or your family when you needed something?  How was God’s law a gift to the Israelites? Do you think the Israelites are going to be able to follow the law? Why or why not? What do you think is going to happen to them if they fail?  What are some rules that bring life or happiness if you follow them? Do you think we can live a full and happy life without following rules?  Do you think it would be possible to *always* keep the rules if you tried really, really hard, especially if you knew they were the best way to be happy? Why?  What happens when we break the rules? Is everything ruined? Why or why not? | |
| do together | Make a list of “10 Ways to Choose Life” for your family. Have a discussion: what are some actions or choices that bring life and happiness to your family? What are actions or choices that bring unhappiness? Make sure that you let the kids have some good input on this. These should not just be guidelines for them, but also choices that you (as parents) try to follow! Write up your “10 Ways to Choose Life” and post them. Use them to keep each other accountable, with the understanding that you will all fail at times. Be willing to ask for and grant forgiveness when you or others mess up; then return to choosing life. | |