

Chapter 8 Activity: God's Plan for our Lives



Teaching Goal: God has a plan for our lives and the Bible teaches us about God's plan.

Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correction and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Materials: Car and prepared directions

In Advance: Prepare directions leading to a special surprise (ice cream, dinner, park, Discovery Zone, etc). With younger children use symbols of a right hand and left hand for making turns, use drawings for stop signs and stoplights. Also draw landmarks like the bank, video store and grocery store.

☺ Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. Sit in a circle with the Bible in the middle. Talk about how God teaches us through the Bible what is right and what is wrong. When we talk about God being in our heart and God walking with us, part of that refers to us reading the Bible and learning what the Bible says. The Bible contains "God's direction for our Lives." Invite volunteers to read Jeremiah 29:11 and 2 Timothy 3:16.

- We go to church because God tells us to get together with other Christians.
- We pray because God tells us to talk with him through prayer.
- We give to missions because God tells us to give to those in need.
- God warns us not to lie because it leads to trouble.
- God warns us not to disobey our parents because it makes him sad.

FAMILY TIME TRAINING

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B. **ACTIVITY:** Give one of the kids the directions. Load up in the car with a parent driving and one child giving the directions on the sheet. As the parent drives, he or she ignores the directions the child is giving, saying **“I know what I’m doing. I’ll get there my own way.”** (Be prepared that the child may get upset, so try to keep the trip light and focused on learning a lesson.)

C. The driver eventually ends up at a dumpster (or dead end, etc.). He or she finally admits, **“I’m lost,”** and apologizes for not following the directions. Also emphasize that when we go our own way and ignore God’s directions, we end up “in the dumps” or in a yucky situation.

D. Go back home and start over, but this time follow the directions ending up at your surprise destination. As you drive, talk about the parallel with the bible that when we follow God’s Word, we have peace and joy in our lives. When we don’t follow His direction, then we end up in the dumps.

Memorize: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

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