**Week 1**

**Email #1: What We Learned This Week**

**Creation (Genesis 1)**

**Brite Idea: God is good.**

In the beginning, God created the world, filling it with light, water, plants and animals. On the sixth day, He made humans, His unique creation, for a special relationship with Him. God declared it all very good.

All of creation was good because God Himself is good. There is nothing bad or wrong in Him, so everything He created showed His goodness. He created the world exactly as it should be, but unfortunately, it didn’t stay perfect for long. Sin entered the world, and God’s perfect creation would be broken. From the very beginning, though, God had a plan to send His Son Jesus to forgive sin and fix the brokenness. He is a good God.

**Memory Verse**

*The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made. (Psalm 145:9)*

**Week 1**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - The Environment**

In a recent study, 59 percent of kids and teenagers indicated they are “extremely worried” about climate change.\* Scientists have termed this as eco-anxiety. Environmental issues have become very politicized. Your kids have likely learned about global warming, climate change, recycling and other environmental issues in their schools. Kids may have great concerns about the future of our planet. We can help kids see that we don’t worship our earth and we recognize that God has ultimate control over all of creation. We can point them towards the truth that this world is God’s creation and we are called to be good stewards.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss at home:***

**Discuss:** What have you heard at school or on social media about the environment?

**Discuss:** As followers of Jesus, should we care about the environment? Why or why not?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** Psalm 24:1 says: *The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.* God made the whole world and called it good. It all belongs to Him. He put Adam and Eve, the very first people, in charge of taking care of it. When sin came into the world, our Earth and environment were affected too. Bad things can happen to our planet. These bad things can be natural, and they can also be done by humans. The Earth is a good gift to us from God. By protecting it, we honor Him and His goodness. We can also remember that, ultimately, the Earth is still in His control. We can trust that He will always take care of us. We don’t have to live in fear of environmental issues when we know God is in charge of the whole Earth.

Try to take a walk together as a family this week. Enjoy the nature God has created and take along a garbage bag and gloves to help protect His creation.

\*<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00278-3/fulltext>

**Week 2**

**Email #1: What We Learned This Week**

**Cain and Abel (Genesis 3 & 4)**

**Brite Idea: God determines what is good.**

Adam and Eve sinned, breaking the perfect world God made. Their sons, Cain and Abel, made offerings to God. Abel pleased God, but Cain, jealous, killed Abel. Cain was banished from the land, but God still protected Him out of His great love.

Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve’s bad choice. Sin continued through their kids and every single generation afterward. All of us still sin today. When speaking to the serpent, God told him that one day God would send a Rescuer whom the enemy would try to hurt, but the Rescuer would crush evil instead. That rescuer would be Jesus. From the very beginning, God had a plan to rescue His people from sin.

**Memory Verse**

*The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made. (Psalm 145:9)*

**Week 2**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Absolute Truth**

In a 2016 study by Barna, only one-third of American adults agreed that moral truth is absolute, meaning there is such a thing as definite right and wrong.\* Our kids are growing up in a culture where right and wrong are considered subjective. Kids hear lines such as “Know your truth” and “Do what’s right for you.” This week kids learned that there is absolute right and wrong and God sets that standard. Even kids who have been in church may get confused about what sin is. Define sin as “anything we think, say or do that disobeys God.” Point kids toward our good and loving God who determines right and wrong and also loves us so much that He wants the very best for us. It is much wiser to follow the standards of the One who created the world than trust in ourselves to determine what is right and wrong.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss at home:***

**Discuss:** Can we know what is right and what is wrong?

**Discuss:** What would you say if someone told you people get to decide for themselves what is right and wrong?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** You may have heard people say that everyone can define their own truth or you can do whatever feels right to you as long as you don’t hurt someone else. These thoughts may sound nice, but they are not how the world works. People can’t decide truth for themselves. They will almost always choose selfishly, and they don’t have the power to understand how everything works in the world. People can’t make good decisions about what should be right or wrong because people are not perfect. Only Someone perfect can determine what is good and not good. And there is only One who is perfect. God. Because God is totally good, He sets the standard for what is right and wrong.

\*<https://www.barna.com/research/the-end-of-absolutes-americas-new-moral-code/>

**Week 3**

**Email #1: What We Learned This Week**

**Noah (Genesis 6-9:17)**

**Brite Idea: God’s goodness never ends.**

God chose Noah to build an ark, rescuing him, his family and animals from a huge flood. Afterward, God promised never to flood the earth again, sealing His pledge with a rainbow—a symbol of His everlasting goodness and faithfulness.

We all need rescue from sin and God is the only One who can rescue us. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Just like the ark was the one way Noah could be rescued from the flood, trusting in Jesus is the only way we can be forgiven. God is good and He is our Rescuer!

**Memory Verse**

*The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made. (Psalm 145:9)*

**Week 3**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Natural Disasters**

Some kids have strong fears of natural disasters prevalent in their geographic region. Some may fear events they have heard about on the other side of the globe. The story of Noah is often thought of as a cute story with animals boarding the ark, but the reality is it is a story of the greatest natural disaster of all time. Kids may wonder if disasters are a punishment for sin, like the flood in this story. Natural disasters are a result of our broken world. God has complete control and allows these things to happen; they are not part of His original design for our planet. This doesn’t mean the people affected by disaster have sinned; they are just affected by a sinful world. This discussion is also a great opportunity to discuss ways to pray for and serve those who have suffered from a disaster.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss at home:***

**Discuss:** What are some natural disasters that you have heard about?

**Discuss:** How can we know God is good even if those terrible things happen?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** You may have heard people say that if God was truly good, natural disasters wouldn’t happen. God is good, but our world was broken by sin. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world and sin affected everything, including nature and creation (Romans 8:20–22). God is still in control, and He does allow disasters to happen, but they were not a part of His plan for creation. They are a consequence of sin in the world. We can trust that because He is good, He uses every bad thing for good and for His glory. Even suffering can draw people closer to Him. God’s goodness also shows through His people who serve and help when disaster strikes. Also, because of His goodness, there will be a day when Jesus returns and makes all new things new, including no more disasters.

Week 4

**Abraham (Genesis 17:15-23, 18:1-15, 21:1-7)**

**Brite Idea: God’s promises are good.**

God promised Abraham and Sarah a child even though they were very old. Despite doubt, Sarah gave birth to Isaac, bringing joy and fulfilling God’s promise. They had a son named Isaac, bringing joy and showing God’s faithfulness.

God promised Abraham the whole world would be blessed through His family. Many generations later a baby was born in Bethlehem and grew up and died on the cross for our sins. That descendant of Abraham and Isaac was Jesus! God had a plan all along to rescue His people and He kept every promise along the way.

**Memory Verse**

*The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made. (Psalm 145:9)*

**Week 4**

**Email #2: Navigating a Broken World - Disappointments**

Whether it is disappointment brought on by themselves or by someone else, kids know how it feels to feel let down. It may be difficult for some kids to trust that God really does keep His promises and really is good when they’ve been disappointed a lot. Abraham and Sarah lived long lives without having any children. God’s promise of a son likely seemed unrealistic to them. Perhaps they were afraid of being disappointed again. When we face disappointment in life, we can trust what we know is true about God and that His promises are good.

***Here’s how we discussed this topic and how you can discuss at home:***

**Discuss:** Can you share about a time you were really disappointed?

**Discuss:** Can disappointments make it hard to trust God? Why or why not?

**Discuss:** What does the Bible have to say about that?

**Say:** We all get disappointed sometimes. Maybe we were hoping to win a game and we lost instead. Maybe someone promised us something and they forgot. Maybe an adult didn’t show up when they were supposed to. Disappointment is a part of life, but it can really hurt. Some people find it hard to trust in God’s promises because they are afraid of being disappointed again. We can know that God is always good. Even if things don’t go as we hope, He always has a good plan. He doesn’t promise we will get everything we want, but He does promise that He is always with us and He always loves us. His promises never fail and are always for our good. When we are disappointed by life, we can always turn to God and trust that He is good no matter what.

Talk to your kids about times they have felt disappointed. Share with them some of your life disappointments as well.