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“

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”

### Inspire (for parents)

One time, my family was caught off guard by a friend who had joined us for dinner. For our mealtime prayer, we bowed our heads and closed our eyes—like always—while someone thanked God and asked Him to bless the food. After the prayer, our friend had a great question. “Why do you all look so sad when you’re talking to God and thanking Him for all those good things?” he asked. He then described how we all looked while we prayed. Our heads were down; bodies slumped in our seats with our eyes closed. To him, we looked as if we had just come from a funeral!

The description he gave of us was so funny that we couldn’t help but laugh hysterically and then try the prayer again. This time, we held hands, and my mom led us in a simple and fun song about God’s goodness that she made up on the spot. We sang along, eyes open, smiling and laughing. We ended with a big round of applause. It’s a prayer I’ll never forget, and one I share with my own children.

Each time we gather together around the table with family and friends, we’re given a wonderful opportunity to remember the goodness of our God. He provides for our needs in seen and unseen ways. He has set us free from the penalty of sin. He has given us His presence by the indwelling of His Spirit within us. When we pray, we remember who He is. Through our prayers, we can celebrate Him with all that we are—mind, body, and soul.

by Justin Fox

### Getting Started

**Main Point:** Remember & Celebrate

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

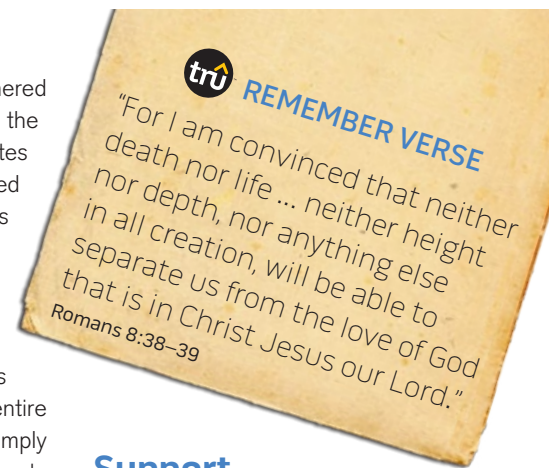
### Equip (for parents)

Several times a year the Israelites gathered together for a festival. In Leviticus 23:2, the Lord said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘These are my appointed feasts ... which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.’” These seven festivals are: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Festival of First Fruits, Feast of Harvest, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths). They were times for the entire faith community to gather together to simply worship and celebrate. During the feasts and festivals, the Israelites ate, danced, sang, played instruments, prayed, and offered sacrifices to God.

The Feast of Passover was fulfilled by the death of the Messiah, the Feast of Unleavened Bread was fulfilled by His sinless sacrifice, and the Festival of First Fruits was fulfilled by the resurrection of the Messiah. The Feast of Harvest began with a great harvest of three thousand souls by the coming of the promised Holy Spirit, who continues to harvest souls today. The Feast of Trumpets will announce Christ’s return, the Day of Atonement will usher in His judgment of the nations, and finally, the Feast of Tabernacles begins the journey to our new home in a new heaven and new earth.

### The Festival of the Day of Atonement

Atonement was a reflective and often solemn festival each year involving fasting, prayer, and repentance. During this festival, known as Yom Kippur, the Israelites rededicated the temple to the Lord and repented of their sins. At this time, the High Priest entered through the veil of the Holy of Holies with sacrificial blood to make atonement for the sins of the people. The significance is found in Christ, who is our High Priest, when He shed His blood once and for all to make atonement for sin before God.



### Support

(for parents & kids)

Every six weeks, your children spend their time at church remembering what God has done in the context of the faith community and in their hearts during the last few weeks’ lessons, they celebrate the way the Israelites did. This month we will be celebrating the Day of Atonement.

**> JUST FOR FUN**, set aside an evening to remember and celebrate with a fun family dinner. Choose a favorite meal (pizza, tacos, or another family favorite) and enlist everyone to help prepare it. When you sit down to eat, spend time remembering what God has done in your life, and how you have seen God work in the lives of your friends and family members.

Here are some conversation starters to get your children talking:

- What is one new thing you have learned about God lately?
- Why do you think it is important to be thankful?

Remind your children they will have a time to Remember & Celebrate in church this week. Pray together, thanking God for His righteousness and for the sacrifice of His Son Jesus.

