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WELCOME

Dear Adventurer,

The call to *walk* with Jesus is never easy, but it is definitely the most rewarding relationship you will ever experience in this life! We could not be more excited about the fact that we get to *support you as you lead your family* in this adventure of faith alongside Jesus!

Famplify exists to help families read the Bible together at least once a week! Everything we do is designed to create a space where YOU grow in your relationship with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our online courses explain this in greater detail, but God truly desires for you to rely on Him as your provider, protector, teacher, healer, friend... He is our faithful shepherd. If you are holding this guidebook, we've been praying for you and your family as you embark on this eight week journey. Other than your choice to put your faith and trust in Jesus and His finished work on the cross, there is nothing more important in this world than leading your family to follow the Lord. Three pieces of advice I'd like to give you,

1. **There's power in the freedom to say "I don't know, but I will find out."** - So many parents feel like they need to have all the answers if their kids ask. When you answer them honestly, and then follow up with them with an answer, you teach them that THEY are capable of finding answers on their own. They don't have to be given the answers by someone else. Your church and the internet make access to information easier than it has ever been before. If you struggle, email us, we'll point you to some great resources that you can trust.
2. **The Promised Helper** - Jesus promised to send you the Helper, the Teacher, His Spirit. Pray before and after every time you meet as a family. Ask for Him to open your hearts, your eyes and your mind to His Word to hear the voice of the living Creator King. His kingdom is coming and our days are limited. Let's be diligent.
3. **Spiritual Eyes** - Fight for the routine. Make the commitment and then stick to it. The dog will bark, the phone will ring, the siblings will be fighting, the "fill in the blank" will attempt to knock you off track. The distractions will come up. There IS a spiritual war for the hearts of your family. Don't let the distractions steal the time you have with your family!

You got this... because He has you! God bless,

Daniel Sidler
Founder/President
Joshua Initiative

OVERVIEW

Follow Me | Gospels | Spring 2024

What if, *today*, you were to find yourself face-to-face with Jesus, looking right into His eyes as He gives you this simple command, “Follow Me.” Two simple words creating unimaginable complexity. Inviting you to join Him on an unknown adventure that would require that you leave immediately and understand only that the journey would be next to Him. Would you obey? Maybe He’d be interrupting you at a job you love, enjoying the most profitable season of your life. Or, maybe He’d be calling you away from a job where you’re struggling just to make ends meet? Would He find you battling depression or enjoying a season of celebration? Maybe you’re praying for just such a moment, eagerly waiting to jump at the opportunity to run with Him. Or would you hide your face in shame because His interruption would find you struggling or even willingly committing the worst sin? - This is exactly what happened to those whose stories we will examine in this series. “Follow Me.” Two words unaffected by all of the moments before them but carry the invitation to impact eternity with every moment after.

Maybe, just maybe, that’s exactly what THIS study was designed to do. Interrupt your current circumstance to hear His voice call to your heart, “Follow Me.” We promise, if you don’t obey, you would be missing the chance of a lifetime!

Series Devotional Outline:

- **Week 1** | The Chance of a Lifetime | *You want to go for a walk?*
- **Week 2** | A New Name | *Your very next step is WITH Jesus.*
- **Week 3** | Bring Your Doubt | *Just put one foot in front of the other.*
- **Week 4** | Pick Up Your Cross | *Surefooted and goal-oriented.*
- **Week 5** | The HEART of the Matter | *How do YOU approach the King?*
- **Week 6** | The Light of Life | *We do not walk in darkness.*
- **Week 7** | It’s An Honor | *Following in His footsteps.*
- **Week 8** | Being Made | *A legacy is made one step at a time.*

— Famplify Preflight Checklist —

- Download “Famplify - AR Bible” App for iOS or Android
- Order Series Materials (Leader Guidebook and Notebooks)
- Watch “Series Welcome” Video
- Watch “D.I.G. How & WHY” Video
- Watch “Set Up for Success” Video

Scan the QR Code to get the links to everything on this list at Famplify.com



Whenever Jesus said “Follow Me” the person He said it to, their lives were never the same.

Have you heard Him say the same thing to you!? It’s probably why you’re doing this study right now!

We get it... you want to GET GOING, **BUT** you’re much more likely to succeed if you just read through the next 20 pages! Plus, not all of the pages have stuff to read so it’s super easy. Just do it, okay.

Okay?

Okay?

Okay?

Okay?

Just, do it Mmkay?

Okaaaaay. Awesome!

WHY YOU'RE GOING TO SUCCEED

Parents, like any good adventure, there will be unexpected obstacles and surprises that undoubtedly arise and threaten your entire journey. **Teamwork, clear communication and setting expectations** is 90% of the battle! Before you begin, you need to make a commitment *to each other and to your family* to stick together to hear what God wants to say to your family.

The Commitment

Teamwork:

As a married couple, your best chance for success is to do this together. Decide the best day of the week to spend time together as a family and then consistently be excited, **together**, to motivate your kids. - *Deuteronomy 6: 1-9 | Colossians 3:18-20*

As a single parent, your best chance of success is to find a creative way to hold yourself accountable to staying consistent with the family. Set an alarm. Assign some of the accountability to your older children if you have them! Something that **will** keep you consistent.

Expectations:

Your objective is Bible reading, not seminary study. Consistency will be your greatest ally but talking with your family before your first Bible study, to clearly communicate what you expect from your children's participation, before you begin, helps everyone tremendously! That's why we plan the first week for communication, instead of jumping right into the study. (See page 11) Share the goals you want to achieve as a family (*i.e. More peace in the home, greater steps of faith, more prayer, etc.*) and WHY you believe that God's Word is going to help with these goals. Explain that this study is 8 weeks and each study will usually be no longer than 20-30 minutes unless *they* want it to go longer. (*You will be surprised at what conversations will develop out of your children's engaged hearts!*)

This time together should be done as a family, however, your children that are older than 12 yrs (typically) should be required to come to the devotional having already completed D.I.G. on their own. (*Read about D.I.G. on page 13. We also provide notebooks that make this journaling easy.*)

Be prepared:

You can't outgive God! You'll always get out more than you put in... so put in as much effort as you can. Plan your weekly schedule (*page 12*) and stick to it! Planning a night for your family and/or small group to meet-up, or get together, allows everyone to be prepared for it. If you try to fit this into the spare space every week, you'll end up frustrating everyone, including yourselves. - Another important note; if your child doesn't want to participate, understand that the struggle is a perfect opportunity *to train them* by helping them to understand the investment/sacrifice you're all making as a family and why. Even if they don't show up as prepared as you would like, try to avoid making this time about forced participation; show them what they are missing out on by pointing out how awesome it is for those who are participating and are excited to be meeting with Jesus. Prayer and consistency are far more effective tools than forced compliance. Let the Holy Spirit guide your children's hearts. Help them understand, the purpose for D.I.G. is to train them how to grow in their own relationship with the Lord that doesn't rely on their parents faith. My prayer (and Jesus' will) is that your children will come to Him and experience Him as Nathaneal did in John 1:43-51!

KNOW YOUR WHY

Set Your Compass to STAY On-Course!

Our busy family calendars make falling behind a very common struggle! You'd be surprised how many times you'll have to rely on your reasons for starting to continue through the struggle to keep going! Write down three reasons why you are doing this study as a family. Share those reasons with your family on the first week that you meet. **Remember, if you fall behind or choose to skip a week, it's okay. Don't beat yourself up and stop trying. Give yourself some grace and don't try to play catch up, just jump back in with the current week!**

1.

2.

3.

WHAT are you asking of God for your family...

What are you asking for? God is a BIG God and He is capable of impossible things. What's one thing you'd like to see God do for your family over the next 8 weeks? Pray together for this every week. Write it down and revisit it after we finish the study!

COMMUNICATION

Our Community

Our mobile app “Famplify - AR Bible” is designed to help you receive organized, consistent content to guide you along the way and help you lead your family through the series. Join this Series’ Group if you’re doing this study “live” to receive our weekly content (videos, small group questions, news, etc.) in that group on the schedule outlined below. Or follow the “series page” available on our website resources (or find this Series’ Group on our app) to do it at your own pace. Our small groups distribute content and communication designed to walk alongside families, just like yours, every week discussing the same section of scripture! If you’d like to start your own Famplify Group, apply on our website partners page.

Our Content:

We will post other things throughout the week for your entertainment but this is the consistent information you should look for every week to get the most out of Famplify if you’re doing the study “live!”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Heads Up (8AM)		Digging Deeper (5PM)		Did We Do it? (5PM)	

Consistency is key:

Monday | Heads Up (3-5 Minute video)

Helpful Info for study & reminders why it’s so important to do Bible Study

- 30 Second Welcome
- Chapter Prep
- 1 minute bullet points highlighted from chapter
- 2.5 minutes is Daniel’s D.I.G. notes

Resources to Download

- Small Group Questions PDF Upload
- AR Link and D.I.G. Pages for those without journals

Wednesday | Digging Deeper (3-5 Minute video)

- Cross references or word studies
- Extra content
- Helpful Parallel Information

Friday | Did We Do It? (3-5 Minute video)

- What was your title?
- Extra encouragement!

GET READY, GET SET... GO! - Prep Week

If this is your first time doing a Famplify series, We suggest you complete the “Crash Course” week of preparation to make sure you get oriented, order materials (Leader Guidebook or youth journals) to be prepared for the journey ahead!

Prep Week Crash Course - Get Ready

Welcome week for those who have never done a Famplify study before.

This week:

- Sign up for a Family Pro Membership on Famplify.com
- Join the series group (i.e. Follow Me, Follow Me etc.) or small group you're a part of.
- Download the “Famplify - AR Bible” mobile app.
- Order all the materials you want for the study. *(Scan QR Code on page 5 for links)*

Prep Week Crash Course - Get Set

Repetition, repetition, repetition. Even if this isn't your first Famplify study, DON'T FORGET THAT communication is vital. Your greatest chance for success is setting expectations, clearly knowing and communicating why you are doing this as a family.

This week:

- Work through the first 20 pages of the Leader Guidebook.
- Commit to watching the videos in the “Series” group (i.e. DELIVERANCE, Follow Me etc.) or the small group you've joined.
- Meet with your family to set expectations and establish your “WHY” (Pages 8 & 9)
- Invite a family to do this study with you!

Go! - Official WEEK 1 of the study!

Week 1 is go time for the series. The real deal. Where the rubber meets the road. You've got this. God is going to do something amazing, we just know it. **Hey, you should use the pages at the end of this Leader Guidebook to journal your family's journey!**

This week:

- Watch the videos in the group or on the series webpage.
- Read & Respond (D.I.G.) to the section of scripture.
- Download the Small Group Questions
- Meet as a family to DIG for treasure and work through the small group questions together.

YOU'RE DOING IT! Well done. Don't give up!

YOUR FAMILY SCHEDULE

Plan your next 8 weeks! Knowing scheduling conflicts ahead of time will help you plan around them.

Week	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

D. I. G. - Discover | Identify | Grow

HOW do you find TREASURE in God's Word?

When we read God's Word, we should come expecting to hear the living God speak to us! When we read anything in God's Word, we are **DISCOVERING** what part of the Word He wants to use to teach us something. When He reveals WISDOM, TRUTH, a PROMISE or something about HIS CHARACTER He is helping us to **IDENTIFY** what the treasure is that we discovered. What we do with the treasure once we've identified it is entirely up to us! We **GROW** when we decide to apply what we learned to our HEART or to our LIFE!

DISCOVER - What is the Bible saying or what is the story about? (*Ages 4 and up*)

IDENTIFY - What TRUTH is the Holy Spirit revealing to you about God's character, His commands, His heart or His Son and His story of redemption? (*Ages 6 and up*)

GROW - What are you going to do to apply the TRUTH that you learned to your heart or life? (*Ages 10 and up*)

WHY D.I.G. is so effective?

DIG is designed for you to read the Bible together as a Family. Here's how we break it down, using the story of David and Goliath (*1 Samuel 17*) as an example...

Discover - For your youngest children or first time readers, this will be their first time hearing the story of the shepherd boy, David, facing and killing the giant, Goliath, for mocking God's people.

Identify - God's Word is alive (*Hebrews 4:12*) which means that God can show you something new every time you read this story to apply it to your life. What is the Holy Spirit pointing out? It could be that God allowed a boy to fight a giant to show How mighty He is or how powerful strong faith is. It could be that David knew that God could save him from bears and lions, He would have no problem saving him from the Philistine giant! What is it that God is pointing out to you in His Word today? My favorite is when He blows my mind by helping me to find something new in a story I've read a bunch of times!

Grow - If God was faithful to David, because He is faithful... and God doesn't change... Then He'll be faithful to His promises to me too. How I choose to live differently because of that truth **is what will stretch me to grow more into the likeness of His Son Jesus.**

The best part about D.I.G. is that it's intended to train you how to train others. Everybody (*not just your children*) needs to know that they can read the Bible in a way that will transform their life at the pace that the Holy Spirit draws them to Himself! It enables the individual to rely on God's Word and not a reading program, curriculum or study, to grow in their relationship with the Lord. God's intention has always been to abide with us! He wants to be the one to write His Words on our hearts. Christ died on the cross to remove the sin that separated us from God, so now, if we believe Jesus is who He said He is and did what He said He was going to do, then we no longer have anything that would hold us back from growing closer to Him! - (*Jer. 31:31, Luke 22:20, 1 John 2:27*) - **You can learn more about this in our Made New Series on Famplify.com**

Scan for AR Bible Image



EXAMPLE WEEK

I SAMUEL | Chapter 17

(This will tell you what section of scripture this lesson is from)

GIANT FAITH

When faith is bigger than the problem!

(This is the week's lesson title and subtitle)



EXAMPLE Outline

- Good to Know
- Pray
- Bible Memory Verse
- Heads Up Notes
- NOTES & DIG
- Follow Up/Small Group Questions
- Digging Deeper

(This is your lesson outline)

HEADS UP NOTES:

Use the space below for notes from the "Monday | Heads Up" video

Every week, as long as you have a "FamilyPRO" membership to Famplify, you will get helpful information or tips that will aid you in your success in our "Heads Up." It posts every Monday. As you watch that video, write down things that you want to remember or might need later.

Example:

- This story probably takes place about 1025BC when David was only 15 years old.
- David was already very familiar with being alone in the wild protecting his flock. (1 Samuel 17:34-37)
- Pay attention to (and point out) how David talks about His God and what He believes to be true about Him and why.

GOOD TO KNOW

Here's some good stuff to know before you read this section of scripture with your family!

Read the “GOOD TO KNOW” before you get started. This is good background information that will help you be prepared for the section of scripture that you are about to read.

Example:

This wasn't David's first rodeo!

During biblical times, families in the Middle East relied upon sheep to provide food, wool, and sheepskin. Because sheep were so valuable, shepherds would stay with the flock to protect them day and night. Frequently, the youngest boy in the family served as a shepherd until he grew older and could do harder manual labor. David was a shepherd for his family, and he often used references to shepherding in the book of Psalms.

David was alone with the Lord much of his young life learning to trust Him for protection, provision and friendship. This relationship with the Lord crafted his heart and his love for God. David was brave but he was also motivated for the world to know his God, his friend, would not to be mocked.

David was about to become famous for his faith in God, but it wasn't HIS fame He was motivated by or worried about. He wanted God to get all the glory because he knew THAT'S who was really in control and deserved the glory!

David was the youngest of Jesse's eight sons.

This means he would not have been very important. He would have the lowest jobs and would be often overlooked. He was also very young and from a fairly unimportant home so he wouldn't have been looked at as a leader.

What he had was HEART. God doesn't look at the outward appearance He looks at the character of the man. God looks at the HEART. 1 Samuel 16:7.

PRAY

Before you begin, it's important to prepare your heart and your mind to hear!

We give you a prayer based on the lesson theme. Feel free to use it or create your own!

Example: Feel free to pray your own prayer, but if I was there with you, this is what I would pray...

MEMORY VERSE

This series "Follow Me" is purposed to remind us WHO God is and what HE desires for us.

Every Famplify Series has a theme that has a corresponding Bible verse. This helps to write God's Word on our hearts.

Example: N/A

D. I. G. NOTES | 1 SAMUEL 17

As you read, write down things that stand out to you. Repeated words. A statement or theme? Anything you don't want to forget?

This is where you write down observations, questions or things that stood out to you. You may have read this story 100 times and something new stands out to you THIS time. Write it down.

Example:

- The Philistines were gathered at Socoh and the Israelites were gathered in the valley of Elah. How far are they apart? Why did they gather there?
 - Answer: Found an awesome image on Google. They are literally right outside Jerusalem. The valley is a great place to do battle. The two locations are not far apart at all!
- David WANTED to be at the battle with his brothers! (vs. 20)
- David was growing in bravery because nobody else would stand up to the challenge. (vs. 26)
- David was ready to back up his words! (vs. 32)
- David puts his faith and trust in God... he's had to do this before! (vs. 34)
 - This. This is unbelievable. So awesome. BUT... to have a story like this you also have to have bears and lions... plural! Are you ready for that? Not many are.
- BOOOOOM (vs. 47) What an epic battle cry and absolutely terrifying thing to hear out of the mouth of an insanely brave young boy.
- David's story will forever... FOREVER be told. (vs. 50)
 - But if David were to tell it, it would be about how HIS GOD won the battle, it wouldn't be about what HE accomplished for the Lord.

VERSE

What verse stood out to you the most in this section of scripture?

Ask what verse stood out the most to your children and share yours as well.

Example: "The LORD who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the LORD be with you!"

DISCOVER

What was this story about? Make sure that you understand, and will remember, the story you read.

Find out if they "heard" the story. If they can say, "A boy killed a giant!" YAY, BUT you'll be surprised what the Holy Spirit shows them... encourage them! Use your bullet points to guide the conversation. - Your older children (+12 yrs) should have their DIG journal notebooks filled out, ready to discuss what THEY got out of their time reading.

Example: This story was about a boy that had giant sized faith. He knew that God loved him and cared for him. He knew that He loved and cared for Israel and WANTED to be known for His faithfulness to His people. (vs. 47 & vs. 50 from notes section)

IDENTIFY

What did the Word reveal to YOU about God, His character, His promises or His story of redemption?

Don't exclude your younger children from this section so they can watch you work through it with your older ones. The Bible is living and active (Heb. 4:12) which means the Holy Spirit can apply this section of scripture to your life in a new way every time you read it! What's He showing you?

Example: David knew that God wanted the Israelites to be known by the world as the people who LIVED with the LIVING GOD. The LIVING God that had SHEPHERDED Him his entire life. Now the world would hear (once again) how great, awesome and mighty HE is. David wanted GOD to get the glory!

GROW

How are you going to apply what you have learned to your heart or life this week?

Don't exclude your younger children from this section so they can watch you work through it with your older ones. The Holy Spirit wants to USE what you've identified to challenge you? How can you commit to applying what you've learned this week?

Example: God wants me to have a close relationship with Him as David did. I'll ask Him to help me face xyz that I've been struggling with this week in a way that gives Him the glory.

TITLE

Summarize the theme that you've identified to help you remember/apply it! Share it with your group on the Famplify - AR Bible App!

Titles help you remember and share what you learn

Example: My title for this lesson is "Lions, Giants and Bears... oh my!"

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

These questions are provided every week at Famplify.com or in your Famplify - AR Bible app in the Famplify Group Resources!

You'll get small group questions every week as an added bonus to guide a discussion with your family or small group to hear what God is speaking to ALL the hearts in your group! - THIS is where the really good family communication is.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Want more? Don't miss the mid-week video for more content! Use the space below to take notes while watching the video.

Before you close in prayer, ask if there's anything the people in your family or small group would like others to be praying for this week. Write them down here in this space. Leave a comment in your group on the Famplify - AR Bible app to encourage them and remind others to be praying as well.

Example: N/A

CLOSING PRAYER

Well done! Close with prayer!

We give you a prayer based on the lesson theme. Feel free to use it or create your own!

Feel free to pray your own prayer, but if I was there with you, this is what I would pray...

DIGGING DEEPER

Want more? Don't miss the mid-week video for more content! Use the space below to take notes while watching the video.

This is like the extra sauce, or the extra side of fries that comes in the fast food bag. It might involve your kids, it might not. It's just another way to help you draw near to God and seek His face... Doing this will always impact your family.

Notes:

Example: N/A