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We go to church weekly not out of obligation, but because we are broken people who wait with expectation to hear from Him.

Inspire (for parents)

Recently my wife and I introduced our kids to the classic Little House book series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. I grew up watching the TV show and loved the books when I was young. It seems like every story, whether in the books or on the TV show, ends with a story of redemption. The other night we were reading a chapter called "Sundays." Our kids were fascinated by how the Ingalls family honored the Lord on Sundays. The children meticulously bathed the night before and put on their best clothes in the morning; the girls wore ribbons in their hair. They reverently went to church and in the afternoon played quietly, read the Bible, and sang hymns while Pa played the fiddle.

As we sat on our couch that quiet evening, we imagined what it was like to live and worship back then. My daughter suggested, "Why don't we do just what they did on Sundays? Should we worship God that way?" This sparked a great conversation about the ways our family practices worshipping the one true God.

We shared with our kids that there is purpose behind our preparation. We dress up for church to show our respect

for God (although our choice of clothing is less formal than the Ingalls). We go to church weekly not out of obligation, but because we are broken people who wait with expectation to hear from Him. As my children grow older, I'm even more aware of how important it is for me to model my dependence on God to restore me and set me on the right path. And just like the Ingalls, we will create our own family traditions which will reinforce that God is the one true God.

by Mike Kenyon

Getting Started

Scripture: Exodus 3—12; 13:17; 15 (Moses Leads)

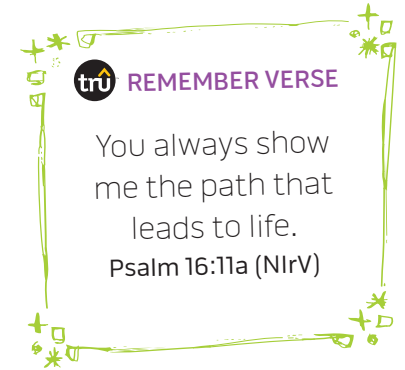
Main Point: God Is the One True God

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 primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

Undoubtedly, God Himself wanted to reinforce that He was the one true God. Prior to the Passover, God declares, "I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD" (Exodus 12:12b). Many scholars believe the plagues were directly attacking the ancient Egyptian gods, and demonstrated the powerlessness of false gods in contrast to the mighty hand of the one true God. The table below shows the correlation between the plagues and Egyptian gods:

Plague	Egyptian god
Moses lifts his staff over the Nile and God turns all the water in Egypt into blood (Exodus 7:14–24).	Hapi: The Egyptian god of the Nile.
God sends swarms of frogs out of the water to cover the land of Egypt (Exodus 8:1–15).	Heket: The Egyptian goddess of fertility, water, and renewal. She is depicted as having the head of a frog.
Moses strikes the ground with his staff, and God turns the dust into gnats which cover men and animals. This is the first plague that the Egyptian magicians could not replicate (Exodus 8:16–19).	Geb: The Egyptian god who ruled over the dust of the earth.
God sends dense swarms of flies which plague only the Egyptians. The Israelites are not affected by this wonder (Exodus 8:20–32).	Khepri: The god of creation. He is depicted with the head of a fly.
God sends a plague over all of the Egyptians' livestock. Not a single animal belonging to the Israelites is affected (Exodus 9:1–7).	Hathor: The goddess of love and protection. She is depicted as having the head of a cow.
God instructs Moses to throw a handful of ashes in the presence of Pharaoh. Doing so unleashes sores on all of the Egyptians and their animals (Exodus 9:8–12). Cleanliness was of utmost importance to the Egyptians. Historically, this would have made them ceremonially unclean, and therefore unable to worship their gods. They weren't even allowed in the presence of Pharaoh. Therefore, only Moses and Aaron could now be in contact with him.	Isis: The goddess of medicine and peace.
God sends the worst hail and lightning storm the Egyptians had ever experienced. Israelites are, once again, unharmed (Exodus 9:13–35).	Nut: The goddess of the sky.
Moses lifted his staff against Egypt, and God sent a massive storm of locusts—so many that the ground was entirely black. They devour every crop and every last piece of fruit growing on the trees (Exodus 10:1–20).	Seth: The god of storms and disorder.



tru REMEMBER VERSE

You always show me the path that leads to life.
Psalm 16:11a (NIRV)

Support (for parents & kids)

Sometime this week, read with your children the biblical account of Moses and the burning bush in **Exodus 3:1–6**. After you've read, ask your children to tell you their favorite part of this passage, and then share with them your favorite part. Ask your children what they would have thought if they saw a burning bush and heard God speak to them. Share with them what "holy" means: set apart, sacred, and separate from others.

> **JUST FOR FUN**, circle up and have everyone in your family take off their shoes while reading this part of The Big God Story.

When you're finished, share with your children that what they just heard is part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they'll hear it in church this week. Close your time by praising the one true God!

God instructs Moses to lift his hand to the sky. In doing so, total darkness blankets Egypt for three full days. No Egyptian could see anyone else or leave his house. Only the Israelites have light where they live (Exodus 10:21–29). Scholars believe that, in Egyptian culture, darkness represented death, judgment, and hopelessness.	Ra: The sun god
The final plague: The firstborn of each Egyptian household would die. The Israelites were instructed in the Passover rituals, and no Israelite child was harmed (Exodus 11–12).	Pharaoh: The ultimate power of Egypt; considered the greatest god of all. He was believed to be the son of Ra, manifest in the flesh.