



# Annual Theme Scope & Cycle

What if the story we were telling wasn't  
just about *me*—but about *we*?

**The Bible doesn't start with us. It doesn't begin with our dreams, our struggles, or even our faith. It starts with Jesus.**

**It's His story first.** The story of what God has done through His Son—through His life, His death, His resurrection. The story of how love moved toward the world, even when the world pushed love away.

**But here's the beautiful thing:** the story doesn't end with Jesus alone. It keeps going—through His people. Through a family formed by grace, not by genetics. A people called the Church. A we.

**The Bible tells the story of Jesus**—and then the story of the people who follow Him. It's a story full of broken people and unexpected heroes. Of failure and forgiveness. Of God sticking with His people, even when they wander.

**It's not just a story we read.** It's a story we're *in*. Because following Jesus was never meant to be something we do by ourselves. It's not a solo climb or a private journey. It's a life we live together.

We belong to each other.  
We grow alongside one another.  
We carry one another's burdens.  
We cheer each other on.

**This is why we matters.** Because faith was always meant to be shared. Not just my story of what God is doing in me—but our story of what God is doing through us. The life of Jesus leads to the life of His people.

The story of *me* always finds its place inside the bigger story of *we*.  
**And that's where the real beauty begins.**

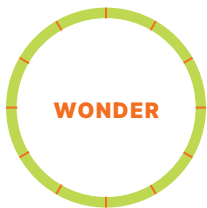
## THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

### One Priority

**“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”**

MATTHEW 22:37-39, NIV

### Three Relational Motives



Move kids to **love God** by inciting wonder.



Move kids to **love life** by provoking discovery.\*



Move kids to **love others** by fueling passion.

\*In the Preschool Phase, the **WONDER** dial is turned all the way up.

### Nine Core Insights

#### Design of God's Creation

What I see around me reveals a Creator who cares about me.

#### Identity based on God's Image

I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth.

#### Connection because of God's Love

I live in pursuit of an infinite God who desires an eternal relationship with me.

#### Faith in God's Son

I believe in Jesus and will continue to trust Him even when life doesn't make sense.

#### Transformation by the power of God's Spirit

God's Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus.

#### Truth according to God's Message

What Jesus said and did impacts how I should respond to God's Word in my everyday life.

#### Restoration through

#### participating in God's Story

I am designed to participate in God's story to restore a broken and hurting world.

#### Compassion that reflects God's Character

My faith in Christ is revealed by my compassion and care for others.

#### Community in the context of God's Family

I choose to live in the complexities of family and community because God values them.

## THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

### Three Basic Truths

**In the preschool years, a child will form their first impression of God's love.**

**God made me.**

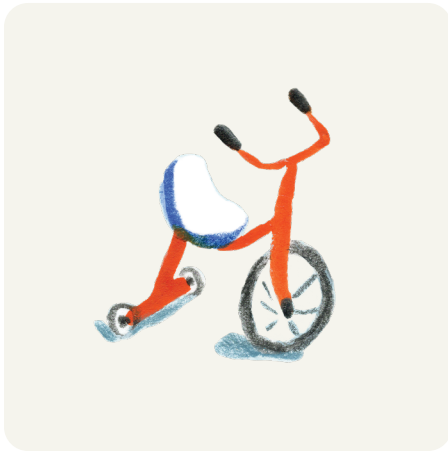
**God loves me.**

**Jesus wants to be  
my friend forever.**

## PHASE

### The Preschool Phase

One-Year-Old—Four-Year-Old



#### ➔ What is a phase?

A phase is a timeframe in a kid's life when you can leverage distinctive opportunities to influence their future.

At each phase, your job is simple . . .  
Know what can be expected of them and  
know how they think so they will hear what  
you say and know what to do.

#### ➔ Thinks like . . .

A preschooler thinks like an artist.

Artists experience the world through  
activities that stimulate the five senses.

Like artists, preschoolers learn best when  
they can make it with their hands. They learn  
experientially, through their senses, from  
someone who responds to them.

#### ➔ How they relate to God . . .

God's story is my story.

Preschoolers who think like artists blend the  
stories they hear with the stories they live in  
a way that makes a loaf and two fish just as  
memorable as yesterday's pizza. They relate  
to an invisible God they can imagine.

#### ➔ Wants to know . . .

In first five years of life, a child  
forms impressions about themselves  
and the world.

The way a child resolves the "Am I . . . ?"  
questions of the phase establishes a critical  
foundation for their future.

The best way to resolve a preschooler's  
relational questions is to consistently  
embrace their physical needs.

#### Am I safe?

In the first year of life, a baby needs to know  
they are safe. When adults consistently  
respond to a baby's needs, babies establish  
trust.

#### Am I able?

When a toddler is one and two years old,  
they discover new abilities. When adults  
patiently allow toddlers to try new things,  
toddlers develop confidence.

#### Am I okay?

When a preschooler is three or four, they  
learn a few rules and expectations. When  
adults set boundaries and discipline with  
love, preschoolers cultivate self-control.

**It's just a phase,  
don't miss it.**



## 2025-2026 THEMES



**AUGUST**

To the Moon and Back: God made everything



**SEPTEMBER**

Construct and Create: God has plans for me



**OCTOBER**

Super Kids: God can help me be brave



**NOVEMBER**

Going on a Picnic: I can celebrate God



**DECEMBER**

Christmas Shapes: God gave us Jesus



**JANUARY**

Book Fair: The bible teaches me the best things



**FEBRUARY**

Sweet Treats: Jesus loves me



**MARCH**

All Star: Jesus is amazing



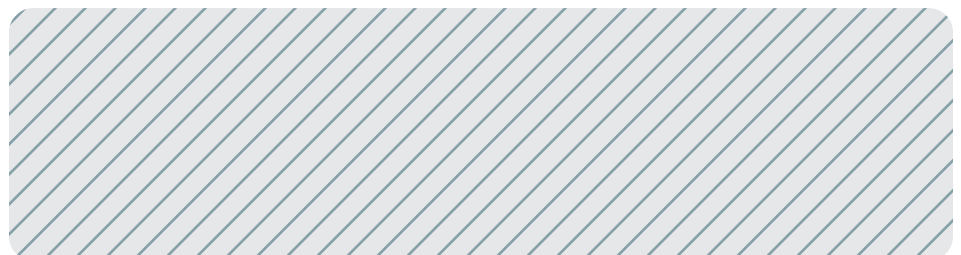
**APRIL**

Hip Hip Hooray: Jesus wants to be my friend forever



**MAY**

Hats Off: Jesus cares about everyone



**JUNE & JULY**

Coming soon!

2025-2026 THEMES

## August



### SERIES OVERVIEW

When you look at the world, what do you see? Vast oceans teeming with extraordinary sea life? Flowers you can name by their scent? Trees that blossom in spring, produce fruit in summer, and turn brilliant colors in fall? When God saw everything He had made, it was very good. And it still is!

### KEY QUESTION

Who made everything?

### BOTTOM LINE

God made everything.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God saw everything he had made. And it was very good."  
(Genesis 1:31 NIV)

**Week One:** Light and Dark; Sky Above Water\* (Genesis 1:3-8)

**Week Two:** Land, Plants, and Seas\* (Genesis 1:9-13)

**Week Three:** Sun, Moon, and Stars\* (Genesis 1:14-19)

**Week Four:** Sea Animals and Birds\* (Genesis 1:20-23)

**Week Five:** Land Animals and People; God Rested\* (Genesis 1:24-2:3)

## September



### SERIES OVERVIEW

God had plans when He made the sun, moon, and stars. God had plans when He made rain fall and plants grow. God had plans when He filled the ocean and land with animals. So why would we doubt that God has plans for the one thing He created in His very own image?

### KEY QUESTION

Who has plans for you?

### BOTTOM LINE

God has plans for me.

### MEMORY VERSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord."  
(Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)

**Week One:** Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15, 19-20)

**Week Two:** Baby Moses\* (Exodus 2:1-10)

**Week Three:** King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34)

**Week Four:** Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5-6; 18:1-4; 21:1-7)

2025-2026 THEMES

October



**SERIES OVERVIEW**

Brave is not the first word most people think of when they think of themselves. But when we think of God, when we think of ourselves – the powerful God who is always with us and can help us be brave – even the most fearful of us can be strong and courageous with God!

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can help you be brave?

**BOTTOM LINE**

God can help me be brave.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid . . . for the Lord your God goes with you." (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV)

**Week One:** Esther (Esther 2:2–8:17)

**Week Two:** David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1–50)

**Week Three:** Gideon\* (Judges 6 and 7)

**Week Four:** Abigail (1 Samuel 25:1–35)

November



**SERIES OVERVIEW**

There is power in a thankful heart! Consider when a heart focuses on what it does not have, it is discontent and unhappy. But when a heart focuses on being thankful for everything, it is content and joyful. Let's choose a life of joy and give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart!

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can thank God for everything?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can thank God for everything.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart." (Psalm 111:1 ESV)

**Week One:** Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz! (Ruth 1–2)

**Week Two:** Daniel's Friends Pray (Daniel 2)

**Week Three:** Manna and Quail (Exodus 16)

**Week Four:** Elisha's Room\* (2 Kings 4:8–17, Psalm 144:9–10)

**Week Five:** David Praises God (2 Samuel 6:12–15)



2025-2026 THEMES

## December



### SERIES OVERVIEW

What is the best gift you have ever given someone? What did it cost you? Time? Money? Maybe going without something you wanted or even needed? The best gifts are the ones that require sacrifice on the part of the giver. That's what makes Jesus the most incredible gift. God gave us His Son, Jesus.

### KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

### BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."  
(John 3:16 GNT)

**Week One:** The Angel and Mary (Luke 1:26-33, 38)

**Week Two:** Jesus is Born\* (Luke 2:1-7)

**Week Three:** The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)

**Week Four:** The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11)

## January

Ⓢ This month includes Preschool Family Experience



### SERIES OVERVIEW

There are a lot of books that teach a lot of things. But there is only one book that teaches the best things – things like how to live for God, hear from God, pray to God, and talk about God to others. We can find all of those best things in the Bible!

### KEY QUESTION

What does the Bible teach you?

### BOTTOM LINE

The Bible teaches me the best things.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is truth." (John 17:17 NIV)

**Week One:** Young Jesus (Luke 2:41-52)

**Week Two:** Philip\* (Acts 8:26-35)

**Week Three:** Paul and Silas (Acts 16:16-40)

**Week Four:** Tabitha and Timothy (Acts 9:36-39; 1 Timothy 4:12)

2025-2026 THEMES

## February



### SERIES OVERVIEW

Love is a word used for many things. We love chocolate. We love puppies. We love naps. But the love Jesus gives us is in a category all by itself. It's a love that is greater than any other love. It's a love that Jesus has for everyone, and it will never end.

### KEY QUESTION

Who loves you?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus loves me.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'" (Matthew 19:14 NLT)

**Week One:** Jesus and the Children (Mark 10:13-16)

**Week Two:** The Lost Sheep\* (Luke 15:3-7)

**Week Three:** Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)

**Week Four:** Jesus Forgives a Woman (John 8)

## March



### SERIES OVERVIEW

When you see something that you have never seen before, and you cannot explain how it happened, that falls into the "amazing" category. That's what people experienced when Jesus began teaching and doing miracles. They had never seen or heard anyone like Him. Jesus was amazing then, and Jesus is amazing now!

### KEY QUESTION

Who is amazing?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is amazing!

### MEMORY VERSE

"We have seen amazing things today!" (Luke 5:26 NLT)

**Week One:** Water to Wine (John 2:1-11)

**Week Two:** Coin in the Fish's Mouth (Matthew 17:24-27)


**Week Three:** Centurion (Matthew 8:5-13)

**Week Four:** Jesus Walks on Water (Matthew 14:22-23; Mark 6:45-52; Luke 6:16-21)

**Week Five:** Palm Sunday\* (Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-15)

2025-2026 THEMES

April

 This month includes Preschool Family Experience



**SERIES OVERVIEW**

We can be forgiven because of what Jesus did on the cross. We can be with Jesus forever because the tomb is empty. We have so much to celebrate! Jesus is alive! And Jesus wants to be our friend forever! News that is this good is too good to keep to ourselves!

**KEY QUESTION**

Who wants to be your friend forever?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"I have called you friends." (John 15:15 NIV)

**Week One:** Easter\* (Matthew 26:31-32, 36, 47-50; 27:1-2, 11-66; 28:1-8)

**Week Two:** Breakfast on the Beach (John 21:1-14)

**Week Three:** Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

**Week Four:** Heaven (John 14:3; Revelation 21, 22:1-5)

May



**SERIES OVERVIEW**

Think about all the people in this world. People like you. People who are nothing like you. People who have made great choices. People who have made horrible choices. People who live near you, and people who live on the other side of the world. There are many different people in this world, and Jesus cares about every one of them.

**KEY QUESTION**

Who does Jesus care about?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus cares about everyone.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (Ephesians 3:18 NIV)

**Week One:** Villages, Towns, Countryside\* (Mark 6:53-57)

**Week Two:** Jesus Heals a Woman on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17 CEV)

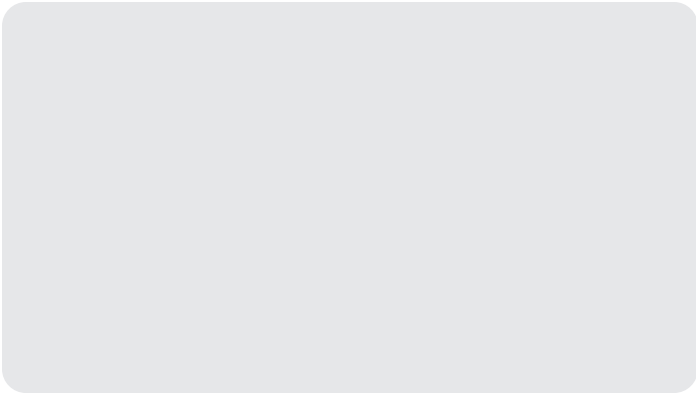
**Week Three:** Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

**Week Four:** Woman at the Well (John 4:1-26, 39-42)

**Week Five:** Matthew's Dinner (Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

2025-2026 THEMES

June (Coming Soon!)



July (Coming Soon!)

