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“ THE LORD ALONE IS
RIGHTEOUS, AND ...
HE BLESSES US WITH
HIS GOODNESS AND
ENDURING LOVE. ”

Inspire (for parents)

My wife and I are raising four girls, ages three to thirteen. Yes, that's right: four girls! We feel it's important to raise them in an environment with a strong faith foundation because, hopefully, this will help to influence them when they are old enough to make their own choices.

The older they get, the more independent they become. This newfound autonomy is both exciting for them and potentially perilous as well. All of our girls have their own unique battles as they try to balance their independence with dependence on us as parents.

Our 13 year old, in particular, knows all the right choices to make, and she understands we love her regardless of how she slips up, but she still goes through bouts of disobedience and rebellion. I am reminded often of my own rebellion against my heavenly Father and how wonderful it is to know that, through Jesus, I am forgiven—even as I cling to my independence. The Lord alone is

righteous, and it is amazing that He blesses us with His goodness and enduring love. My wife and I will not always parent perfectly, but then again that is not the point of being a parent. When we seek after the righteousness of God, I believe we can inspire and encourage our girls to be righteous, too, as they learn to rely on Him on their own unique journeys of faith.

✪ by Keith Haughton

Getting Started

Scripture: Luke 1:26–56 (Prophecies)
Main Point: The LORD Is Our Righteousness

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)

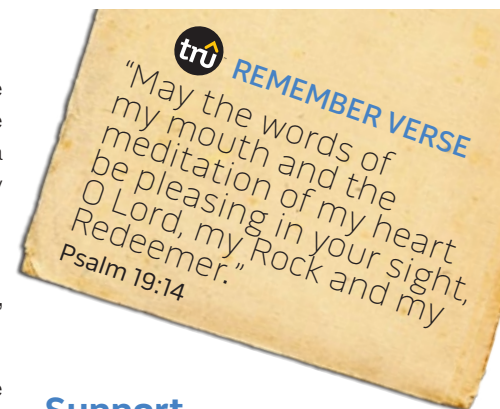
God did not abandon His people. He gave Jeremiah a prophecy, saying, “The days are coming ... when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:5–6).

Through Jeremiah, God reminded His people that no matter how dark things had become, He would restore the legitimate order of the Davidic kingship and bring a king who would rule justly and bring peace.

By sending His Son, God brought the King from the Davidic family line—the righteous Branch, the rightful Heir to David's throne. He brought the Good Shepherd, who cares for the flock. He brought a King like Josiah, who cleansed the temple. And most amazingly, He brought a King who not only ruled His people righteously, but who also put His righteousness into His people's account!

Jesus did for His people what they could not do for themselves and what their earthly kings could not do for them. He took responsibility for their sins and declared them righteous before God (Romans 3:21–5:11). ✪

“JESUS WAS THE
ONLY PERSON WHO
LIVED A PERFECT,
RIGHTEOUS LIFE.”



Support (for parents & kids)

Sometime this week, have your family gather around a table. Place someone at the head of the table and declare him to be “the king.” **> JUST FOR FUN**, make a crown out of construction paper for his head, and have him wear a robe. Choose anything that might help him feel like a king. Then read **Jeremiah 23:5–6** together as a family.

Ask your kids if they know what the word “righteousness” means. Share with them that a righteous person is someone who does what is right in God's eyes and lives in relationship with Him. Remind your kids that Jesus was the only person who lived a perfect, righteous life. Jesus is also the King of Kings! Jesus is the righteous King!

When you are finished reading the passage and talking with your kids, share with them that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear more about it in church this week.

Close your time by praying and thanking God that He sent Jesus to be our Model for righteousness. Thank Him for sending Jesus to take responsibility for our sins, although He is sinless. ✪