



explore

book 3

in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

Experience God's Power in You

Student Book



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Experience God's Power in You

Student Book 3 in the Explore Kid's Discipleship Series

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Bible Study

We will experience God's power when we study His Word, the Bible.

Engage

Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is alive and powerful." Many of us would like to experience God's power but are not sure how to study His Word. We can learn simple skills for studying the Bible that will help us understand and experience God's power every time we read His Word.



I Can Know It Is True

1. As we study God's Word, we can start by asking five questions: *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*. Take time to look at *who* the main characters are or *who* is writing or speaking, *what* is going on or being taught, *where* and *when* the story is taking place, and *why* this passage is important. The answers to these questions give us a better understanding of the entire passage and help us to see both the words *and* their meaning.

God wants us to take the time to understand His Word. See what it says in Deuteronomy 6:4–13; Psalm 125; and Ephesians 1:17–21.

2. When studying the Bible, it's important to ask what each passage tells us about God. It's His story from Genesis to Revelation and every Scripture reveals more about God's character. The Bible helps us to see His love, power, forgiveness, and holiness more clearly.

We can discover who God is by reading the Bible. Discover something about Him in Psalm 25:9–10; Daniel 9:8–9; 1 John 3:1–3; and John 3:16–17.

3. When studying the Bible, it's important to ask how this Scripture impacts your life. The Bible is not just recorded history, but it's alive, active, and current today. The Bible helps us change bad habits into good ones, put others before ourselves, and love God with everything we have. When studying the Bible, we should always keep our hearts open to what God might want to teach us and be willing to change the things in our lives that are not pleasing to Him.

Discover how God's Word can impact your life in Romans 12:1–2 and 2 Timothy 3:16–17.

The same God who worked in and through the lives of the people recorded in the Bible is at work today. When you read His words, seek to discover what they're saying to you.

Check It Out

Read Psalm 119:1–8.

What's the difference between just reading the Bible and studying it?

Read Psalm 119:104–106.

How is the Bible like a light?



Question

Bible study is more than just reading. Bible study involves learning new things about God and being willing to let Him change you through what you've learned. Let's put what we've learned into practice. Read Genesis 1:1—2:4 then answer the following questions.

Step 1:

Who is the main character?

What is going on in this passage?

Where does this story take place?

When does this story take place?

Why is this passage important?

Step 2:

What does this passage teach us about God?

Step 3:

What impact does this Scripture have on your life?



Challenge

This week, *Explore* Mark 2:1–12 using the techniques you learned today. Answer the questions *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*. Record what this teaches you about God and how it applies to your life. Be ready to share with the class what you learned.

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

Explore

Romans 12: 1–2 says,

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.





Prayer

Prayer is direct communication with God.

Engage

Prayer doesn't need to be lengthy or include fancy words to be meaningful. Instead, prayer is personal, authentic, and real.



I Can Know It Is True

1. Prayer is a time for talking and listening. We can talk to God about anything, anytime, and anywhere. God loves us and wants us to be open and honest with Him. After we talk to Him, He wants us to open our hearts and minds to hear what He has to say back to us.

We can read about talking and listening to God in Psalm 116:1–2; Proverbs 2:1–2; and John 10:27.

2. Prayer is a time for asking and submitting. One element of prayer is asking God for the things that we need or want. It's important to remember that once we've asked God for something, we should submit to God and His will. *Submission* means to trust that God knows what's best for us, and to gratefully accept any answer He gives us.

We can read about Jesus' submission to God's will in Matthew 26:36–46 and His instructions to us in Luke 11:9–13.

3. Prayer is a time for praise. God deserves our gratitude and praise. During prayer, we should take time to praise God for who He is and everything that He has done for us.

Read Psalm 136, a psalm of praise.

Check It Out

Read Psalm 46:10.

What does it mean to be still before the Lord?

Read Psalm 63:1–4.

Praising God seems easy when things are going our way, but when life gets hard we often forget to praise God. Make a list of five things that you can praise God for. When you go through a tough time, remember these five things and keep praising God!



Question

For a relationship to grow, direct communication is vital. That's why God allows us to go directly to Him with our prayers. God loves us and wants us to have a growing and personal relationship with Him.

What impact has prayer had on your relationship with God?

Good communication consists of talking and listening. In what ways does God talk to us?

When we ask God for the things we want or need, we always hope that He answers us by saying "Yes." But sometimes He says, "No." When He doesn't give us the answer we hope for, submission may be hard. When we submit, we give God full control over the situation.

Take a moment to write a request to God. At the end of the prayer add this phrase, "No matter what, I will trust and praise you."

First Thessalonians 5:17 says, "Never stop praying." God wants us to make talking to Him a holy habit and a lifestyle. A holy habit is something you do naturally and routinely. Prayer becomes a holy habit when it is part of our lifestyle and when we pray throughout the day: to start the day, on our way to school, during a test, watching TV, and before we fall to sleep.

Explore these examples of people who made prayer a priority.

Daniel made prayer a habit by praying three times a day. Check out Daniel 6:7–10.

How have you made prayer a holy habit?

David was known as a man after God's own heart. David made prayer a lifestyle by talking to God regularly throughout his day. Check out Psalm 142.

How have you made prayer a lifestyle?



Challenge

It's great to keep track of the things you want to pray for and anything you want to praise or thank God for. Below is a sample of a prayer journal. Use it this week and see if you can make prayer a holy habit.

I'm going to pray every day.

When:

Where:

What I'm praying and praising for:

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

Explore

If you don't know what to say when you pray, read Matthew 6:9–13 out loud:

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



Evangelism

God expects every believer to tell others about Jesus.

Engage

God doesn't expect you to lead every person you meet into a relationship with Him, but He does want you to be ready: "If someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it" (1 Peter 3:15).



I Can Know It Is True

1. Your life should be a living testimony of God's love to others. When you love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love others as yourself, your life becomes a reflection of God's love. Actions such as obeying authority, loving your enemies, or forgiving those who hurt you are all a powerful testimony of how God has changed your life.

Read about being a testimony of God's love in Luke 10:25–37.

2. You can change your world by telling others about Jesus. Once you've experienced the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, it is your responsibility to share Jesus with others. One way to share about Jesus is to tell your life story—your testimony. You can also share the plan of salvation with others and help them understand Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Through you, Jesus will change the world one life at a time! Read what happened when Paul and Silas told others about Jesus in Acts 16:25–34.

3. The Holy Spirit will give you the power and wisdom to share Jesus with others. The most important thing you can do when sharing Jesus is to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will give you the wisdom to know when you should share with someone and what to say.

We can read about the help of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8 and Romans 15:13.

Check It Out

Read Matthew 5:14–16.

How can your life be like a light for God?

How can you express God's love to others through your words?

How can you express God's love to others through your actions?



Question

First Peter 3:15 says, "Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it." God wants you to always be ready to share Jesus with others.

One thing you can do to be ready is to write your personal story ahead of time and practice telling it to others. Take some time and answer the following questions. These questions will help you organize your story. Keep your answers short and simple.

Your Story of Salvation

What was your life like before you had a friendship with Jesus?

What made you realize that you needed to have a friendship with Jesus and what did you do about it?

What's your life like now that you have a friendship with Jesus?

Your Life Story

What's the hardest thing you've had to face, and how did God help you through it?

What's one prayer that you have seen God answer?

It's important to start with prayer before we share Jesus with others. Ask God for specific opportunities to tell others about Jesus.



Challenge

Practice telling your story to two people this week. They can be your friend, pastor, or someone in your family. After practicing, pray that God will give you the opportunity to share your testimony with someone else. Remember to rely on the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom on what to say.

Explore

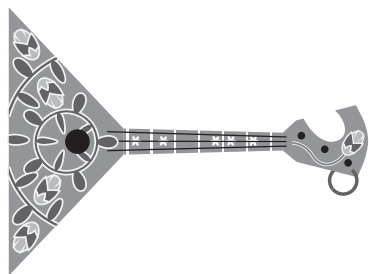
These verses are a great way to share the Good News with someone else.

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard" (Romans 3:23).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8).

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness" (1 John 1:9).





Fellowship

Fellowship with other Christians is vital to our faith.

Engage

God didn't create us to live life alone. He created us to live and experience life together, especially with other believers. When we fellowship with other believers, we grow in our faith.



I Can Know It Is True

1. Strong, close friendships with other Christians are important to our spiritual formation. God wants us to have friends that will support us in making wise choices, hold us accountable when we mess up, and encourage us to learn more about God.

Discover how to be a good friend in Proverbs 18:24; John 15:12–13; and 1 Peter 3:8.

2. We fellowship with other believers when we share our needs, concerns, and joys. God wants us to be open about our hurts, struggles, needs, doubts, and fears with each other too.

Read about this in Romans 12:12–16; 2 Corinthians 1:3–7; and James 5:16.

3. Fellowship comes with responsibilities and benefits. True fellowship is more than sitting next to our friends at church and hanging out after service. Fellowship requires us to love, forgive, encourage, support, serve, give to, and pray for each other. God

promises to be with us as we fellowship with one another. Friendship, accountability, support, and genuine love are just a few of the other benefits of true fellowship.

Read about it in Matthew 18:20 and Colossians 3:12–15. Romans 1:12 tells us what true fellowship is all about.

Check It Out

Read Galatians 6:2.

What does it mean to share each other's burdens?

Read James 4:11.

How can judging one another destroy fellowship?



Question

Our closest friendships must be with people who love God. Galatians 5:22–23 lists some godly characteristics. What are they?

How does 1 Corinthians 13:4–7 describe the person whose love reflects Christ?

Would you use any of those words in Galatians or Corinthians to describe your friends?

What words describe you?

In true fellowship, we share both our joys and our concerns. Most people will freely share their joys and victories, but they have a hard time sharing their struggles. What stops people from being open and honest about their struggles?



Challenge

This week, ask another Christian to help you grow closer to God. Pick a time where you can talk to that person and ask each other the following questions:

- Have you read your Bible this week? What did you read?

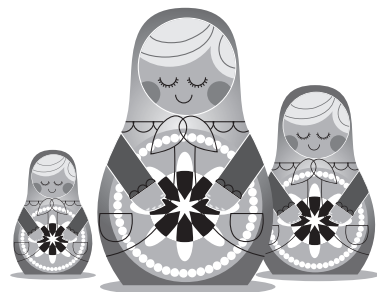
- Have you been living in a way that would bring honor to Jesus this week?
- Have you shared God with anyone this week?
- How can I pray for you this coming week?

Make this kind of fellowship a holy habit; ask each other these questions every week!

Explore

Colossians 3:12–15 says,

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.



Service

Service is using our talents and abilities in Jesus' name.

Engage

To serve means to be useful, offer assistance, or give help. We all love to be served and have someone else do something nice for us. As Christians though, we're not called to be served, but to serve others in Jesus' name.



I Can Know It Is True

1. We are called to serve God and one another. Once we become a follower of Jesus, we are called to a life of love and service. Our attitude should shift from a selfish attitude of “What can others do for me?” to the serving attitude of “What can I do for others?” Jesus spent His earthly life serving others. We’re commanded to follow His example.

Discover how Jesus served His disciples in John 13:1–17.

2. God has equipped each of us to serve in a unique way. When God created us, He equipped us with unique talents, abilities, interests, personality traits, and passions. God wants us to use these unique traits to serve Him and others. There is no one else like you on earth and no one is equipped to serve just like you can.

Read about how God uniquely equipped us to serve Him and each other in 1 Corinthians 12:4–7; Ephesians 2:10; and 1 Peter 4:10.

3. True service is done with an attitude of humility. When we serve with an attitude of humility, we put the needs of others above our own. People are often willing to help if they’re in the spotlight and receive recognition from others, but God wants us to serve even if what we do goes unnoticed.

We can read about the importance of serving with an attitude of humility in Matthew 6:1 and 1 Peter 5:5–6.

When we humbly serve others with our unique God-given abilities, we bring glory and honor to God.

Check It Out

Read Matthew 20:26–28.

God wants us to be more concerned with serving others than being served. Is there someone in your life that always seems to be serving you? How could you serve him or her this week?

Read Colossians 3:23.

What difference would it make if you served others only to honor the Lord instead of serving others to receive praise?

**Question**

Serving others can be as easy as holding a door open for someone or as difficult as going on a mission trip to a country where you don't understand the language. No matter how simple or difficult the task, serving others always pleases God.

List two ways you could serve God and others in each of the following areas:

Church

1.

2.

Community

1.

2.

School

1.

2.

Home

1.

2.



Challenge

This week find three different ways to serve someone. Be creative as you serve others without being asked. Remember to record what you did in your workbook.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Explore

First Corinthians 12:4–7 says,

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.



Stewardship

Stewardship is a lifestyle of using all we have been given for the glory of God.

Engage

God wants us to use the things He's given us in a way that blesses others and honors Him.



I Can Know It Is True

1. Stewardship begins by recognizing that God has given us everything we have. He's given us this day to live and breathe; it's a gift from Him. He has given us special talents and abilities. He's given us treasures, which include money and everything we own. All these things belong to God.

We read about a man who was unwilling to let God have control of all His possessions in Mark 10:17–31.

2. Stewardship involves giving to God and to others. Since everything we have belongs to God, we should use our time, abilities, and possessions for Him. We can give our time and use our abilities to serve. We can use our money and possessions to help those in need.

We can read about giving to God and others in 1 Timothy 6:17–19.

3. Stewardship involves taking care of all we have been given. God, the creator of all things, has given us many blessings. These blessings might include this beautiful earth with its mountains, forests, and rivers. Perhaps you have a nice home with a cupboard full of food, or you possess a great mind, a beautiful singing voice, or amazing athletic ability. He wants us to enjoy and take care of all these things.

We can read about taking care of what we've been given in Matthew 25:14–30.

Check It Out

God promises to bless those who are good stewards of what He's given them. Check out these verses and make a list of all the blessings He promises.

Matthew 6:31–33

Luke 12:33–34

Hebrews 13:5



Question

Everything we have belongs to God.

Why is it important to give to God first?

Sometimes we let things like selfishness keep us from being good stewards. What are other things that we let keep us from being good stewards? What can you do about these things?

God wants us to use our time, abilities, and possessions to help others and to honor Him. What are two ways you can use your time to help others?

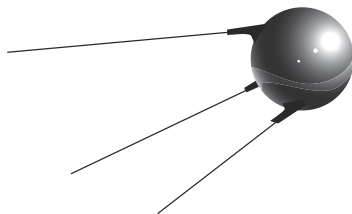
1.

2.

List two ways you can use your abilities to honor God?

1.

2.



What are two possessions you can give to help others?

1.

2.

Satan tries to convince each of us that what we have to offer is too small to make a difference. Satan tells us these lies, because he knows that the impact would be huge if every Christian chose to be good stewards! If every Christian gave God even a little bit of their time, abilities, and possessions, what impact do you think this could have on the world?



Challenge

This week give something you have back to God. Pray about your decision and record what you're giving below.

I'm giving back to God:

How did it feel to give back to God?

Explore

Use the mind God has given you for Him and memorize this verse.

So don't worry about these things, saying, "What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?" These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need (Matthew 6:31–33).

Student Leadership Application

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

E-mail Address: _____

Your Salvation Story

Why do you want to serve as a student leader?

What skills, talents, abilities, or interests do you have?

Where and how would you like to serve?



What other areas of commitment/service do you have? (school, home, community, church, etc.)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Comments

Are you comfortable with your child serving as a Student Leader at this church? Why or why not?

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Explore Leader Comments

Leader Approval: _____

Date: _____

Congratulations

on experiencing God's power in you!

You are now ready
to encounter your
mission for God!

explore