

date: _____

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 want YOU to be the one to introduce** this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church, or download it at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app on your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



4.9

God Is Hope

Part of The Big God Story

1 Thessalonians 1—4; 2 Thessalonians 2
Letters to the Thessalonians

Just for Fun

This week, at the dinner table, invite your family members to share their highs and lows of the week. Let everyone know you're going to read a part of The Big God Story in which Paul wrote letters of encouragement to the Christians living in Thessalonica. Read **1 Thessalonians 1 and 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17**. No matter what challenges we may face each week, God is hope. We can always trust that He keeps His promises and that Jesus will return to earth one day.

Did You Know?

- In Acts 17 we learn that Paul arrived in Thessalonica after being persecuted in Philippi. This persecution followed him to Thessalonica and caused him to leave the city after just a few weeks. And, unfortunately, the church in Thessalonica suffered persecution as well.

- Because of the intense circumstances faced by the people in Thessalonica, Paul knew they desperately needed hope, so he wrote to them about some timeless truths. He told them how the church wasn't destined to suffer God's wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9), how Jesus' return shouldn't catch them by surprise like it would those who live in darkness (5:4), and how they as believers shouldn't participate in the deeds of darkness but instead behave as children of light (5:5).

Remember Verse

Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
2 Corinthians 5:5

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child see the **Blessing** section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may the Holy Spirit encourage you and give you hope. May you experience His strength this week.

Younger Kids

Your child may be very eager to learn and may readily absorb new concepts. Sharing God's Word with your child with great enthusiasm will help him develop a passion for God and a love for Scripture.

Older Kids

Your child may be starting to grapple with how she views the world. Help your child develop a biblical worldview by reading Scripture together, encouraging open dialogue, and providing a safe place for her to ask questions.

Teachable Moments

After reading 1 Thessalonians 1 and 2 Thessalonians 2:13–17, discuss the following together:

- What challenges did the Thessalonians face?
- How did God's hope allow the Thessalonians to face those challenges?
- How does God's hope encourage you?