

KIDS CHRONICLES

STORY POINTS

Big Picture Question: *Who is in control of everything?*

God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.

September 04th: Esther Saved Her People (Esther)

While some Jews left to rebuild the temple, others remained in Persia under the reign of King Ahasuerus. In his pride, he replaced the former queen with Esther, a young Jewish woman (2:17-18). One day, the king gave Haman, a descendant of the Amalekites (an enemy of Israel), a position of authority where others were to bow to him (3:1). Mordecai, Esther's uncle, refused to bow down, and Haman in his anger made a plan to kill all the Jews (3:6). Esther risked her life to make a request of the king to save her people (8:3). In the end, God used Esther to save the Jews. God faithfully protected His people, despite their unfaithfulness to Him.

September 11th: The Walls Rebuilt (Nehemiah 1-7)

Approximately 50,000 people of the 2-3 million Jews in exiles returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. When God's people faced opposition in rebuilding the rest of Jerusalem (4:1), they stopped. Some 70 years passed, and the walls and gates around the city were still ruined. God raised up Nehemiah to continue the work, defending it from enemies and rebuilding the walls and gates (4:14-23). When the work was done, the surrounding nations were terrified because they realized this was completed by God (Neh 6:16). God is in control, even in the midst of opposition. He will deliver us, often by bringing us to our knees to call out to Him.

September 18th: God's People Repented (Nehemiah 8-13)

As a scribe, Ezra was an expert on the law of Moses, and he had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach it in Israel (Ezra 7:10). From early morning until midday, Ezra taught the exiles from the Law. The Word of God pierced the hearts of Israel, opening their eyes to who God is, and how they have broken His Law. They grieved over their sin, repented, and turned to God (8:9-9:38). God loves us so much that He allows very hard things to happen in our lives so that we would turn from sin and trust in Him.

September 25th: Malachi the Prophet (Malachi)

The Israelites had worked hard to rebuild the temple and walls around Jerusalem. They believed that God would restore them now, but what they faced was drought and economic uncertainty. It was not long until God's people fell back into the same patterns of sin that led to their exile (1:6). God raised up Malachi, the last of the OT prophets, to declare to His people that despite their disobedience, God still cared for them. God exposed their sins and commanded them to repent and turn back to God (4:7). This was the last time God would speak to His people for 400 years. God is patient...and He will bring justice and salvation to the nations in His time through His Son - Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL TIP

I need help sharing the gospel...

God deals *gently* with our ignorance (Heb 4:14-5:10). The wisdom from above is first *gentle*. (James 3:17-18). When Jesus revealed his heart, he said that he is *gentle* (Matt 11:28-30).

Be *gentle* as you usher your children towards an understanding of the gospel and who God is. Trust the Holy Spirit to convince and convict them. Teach your kids the Word faithfully and accurately, and trust God to illuminate their hearts in His timing and way.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

Scripture Memory Challenge

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (**Romans 5:12**)

EVERY MOMENT REDEEMED

Family Devotion Resources

Family meals provide daily opportunities to disciple your children. One family in our Church reads 1-2 verses from Proverbs, discusses it at dinner, and sings one worship song ("Proverbs with Provisions").

Family worship does not have to be complicated, nor does it have to be hours of studying the Bible. Relieve yourself of that pressure and trust the Lord to work in daily faithfulness. Why not ask a family in your Lifegroup if you could join them for a meal to learn?

TECH CORNER

How do I disciple my children in this digital age?

We recognize the challenges of navigating a digital world. Every family dynamic is unique and the landscape of technology is constantly shifting. [Tim Challies](#) offers several insights to help parents establish God-honoring digital practices in the home.

