



# **Note to Parents**

racticed for over 1,500 years, the Church calendar serves as a way to order our lives around the Christian story. Inspired by the annual feasts and celebrations of God's people throughout the Old Testament, the calendar can be traced all the way back to the early Church, when Christians began establishing rhythms and rituals based on

the one story of Scripture. The gatherings, the practices, and the traditions of the seasons help us remember the one true story of the Bible—who God is and what He has done in Jesus Christ—and help us to live in that story every day as the people of God.

We teach who God is and what He has done in Jesus Christ in Little Village by highlighting one of six foundational truths each week: God Made Everything, God Is in Charge of Everything, God Is Good, Jesus Came to Save Sinners, God Wants to Talk With Us, and The Church Is God's Family. Our hope and prayer is that you may orient your family around these truths this year as you gather to remember the one true story of the Bible.



hroughout the Bible, we see an overarching timeline of God's work, sometimes referred to as the metanarrative. During the course of the year, we refer back to this timeline at various points to help your child gain an understanding of how each narrative fits into **God's Big Story**. We hope that by providing a copy for you to use at home, you can continue to help your child grow in their understanding of not only when things happened but also how we are still waiting with hope for Christ's promised return.

# GLOSSARY

#### TERMS FOR TEACHING

**ANGEL** – a mighty messenger and warrior from God

**BAPTISM** – to dip someone under some water and bring them back up like Jesus died and was raised back to life—to show everyone that God has given them a new, healthy heart like Jesus

**BIBLE** – God's true Word. It is from God and about God.

**A CHURCH** – a group of people who love and trust Jesus

**THE CHURCH** – everyone who loves and trusts Jesus

**COMMUNION** – when people who love and trust Jesus eat and drink together to remember His death on the cross, how Jesus' body was broken like bread and His blood was poured out like wine for sin

**CRUCIFY** – to die on a cross

**DESERT** – a really hot, dry place with almost no food or water

**DISCIPLE** – a friend and follower of Jesus

**GOD** – God the Father is God. Jesus the Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. There is only one God who is three different persons. **God Made Everything. God Is in Charge of Everything. God Is Good!** 

**GOSPEL** – the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** and the whole world from sin

**HEAVEN** – the place where God lives

**IDOL** – anything we love and trust more than God

ISRAELITES – God's special, chosen people

**MIRACLE** – something amazing and special that shows God's power

**PROMISED LAND** – the place God promised to give to the Israelites that was full of good things

**PROPHET** – someone who speaks for God

**SACRIFICE** – giving something special and valuable to God to show Him that He is better

**SAVES** – rescues

**SIN (SICK HEART)** – anything we do or think that is different from what God wants. Sin starts in our hearts and comes out in our actions. Everyone sins. Sin separates us from God, and we die.

**TAX COLLECTOR** – someone who collects money and gives it to the people in charge of a city as a job

**TEMPLE** – the place where God's people worshiped God together a long time ago

**TEMPTATION** – when our hearts or other people tell us that sinning is better than obeying God

**WORSHIP** – how we show that God is most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We use our voices, minds, and bodies to worship God.



About the Art: The heavens are where King Jesus lives for now.

# Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Psalm 115:3

**HEAVEN** – where God lives

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## **ABOUT EPIPHANY**

Epiphany means "to show" or "make known" and is a time when we celebrate that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior God promised to His people. During Epiphany, we also celebrate that Jesus came to live with His people.

During the season of Epiphany, we will learn stories about Jesus being with His people and living a perfect life.



You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

**SOUL** – the invisible part of a person that lasts forever

About the Art: Jesus says to hang on to Him with all you've got like grapes on a branch!

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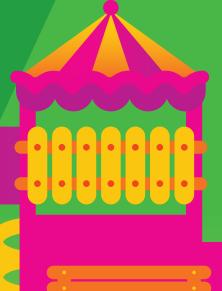
#### **ABOUT LENT**

Lent is the time leading up to Jesus dying on the cross for our sin. It is 40 days long to remind us of when Jesus went into the wilderness and Satan tried to get Him to sin. Not once did Jesus sin. He is the only person who has lived a perfect life! This season reminds us that Jesus gave His life on the cross to save sinners!

During the last week of Lent, we celebrate Holy Week. This is a week when we celebrate the final days of Jesus' life. It starts with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. It includes the last meal Jesus had with His disciples, Jesus dying on the cross for our sin, and ends with His body being buried in a tomb. March

About the Art: What we believe about God comes out in what we say and do in everyday places.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17** 



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About the Art: The fact that Jesus Came to Save Sinners and give new life is a beautiful truth.



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **John 3:16** 

> BELIEVE – to love and trust PERISH – to die and be separated from God ETERNAL – always

### **ABOUT EASTER**

Easter is a time we celebrate that Jesus is no longer dead; He is alive! He was buried in a tomb, and on the third day, He rose from the grave. During Easter, we celebrate that Jesus came back to life, and for 40 days, He met with His people before going back to heaven to be with God the Father. Because Jesus is with God the Father in heaven, we can celebrate that all who love and trust in God will one day be with God, too.

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**About the Art:** This cactus is rejoicing because it is sustained by the Lord in the driest season.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**REJOICE** – to show excitement, gladness or joy **CEASING** – stopping **CIRCUMSTANCES** – a time, place or event

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### ABOUT PENTECOST

During the season of Pentecost, we celebrate that God has given the Holy Spirit as a gift to those who love and trust Jesus. Jesus did not leave His people alone but sent a Helper, the Holy Spirit. We celebrate how God's children, led by the Helper, began to tell others about how Jesus came to save sinners. As more and more people heard about Jesus, the Church grew. The Church is a group of people who love and trust Jesus and spend time learning about, worshiping, and telling others about Jesus. God's children are all over the world and are all a part of His Church. During Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Helper and the beginning of the Church.



About the Art: God never gets tired. His endurance and wisdom flow continuously like a waterfall.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. **Isaiah 40:28** 

**EVERLASTING** – going on; continuing forever

#### ABOUT ORDINARY TIME

During the season of Ordinary Time, we celebrate what Jesus told His disciples to do—go around the whole world telling others about Him! This is a time we celebrate what the Holy Spirit, the Helper, is doing in the Church to make disciples. We call this "Ordinary Time" because we tell others about Jesus in the places that we are—in our homes, neighborhoods, world knows Him!

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# In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1:1**



About the Art: It's good to zoom out and remember our Creator is very big.

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About the Art: A pearl can form in a deep, dark ocean. Knowing God is doing something wonderful can comfort you during the darkest of times.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

FAITH – trust in God ASSURANCE – believing and knowing very strongly HOPE – wanting and waiting for something to happen CONVICTION – strong belief; believing something with all your heart

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The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Psalm 103:8

About the Art: Historically, the rainbow is a symbol of God's enormous mercy!

MERCIFUL – showing love to someone when they deserve punishment GRACIOUS – does what is kind; gives gifts that we don't deserve ABOUNDING – has lots of STEADFAST – stays the same; doesn't change

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About the Art: Love is like a diamond: it has great value, its facets can share light with others, and its clarity can remind us of Jesus.



So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

> FAITH – trust in God HOPE – wanting and waiting for something to happen ABIDE – to stay or never go away

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**About the Art:** As sunflowers grow, they turn and face the sun instead of looking at themselves.

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Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! **Psalm 115:1** 

GLORY – how God shows the world that He is good STEADFAST – stays the same; doesn't change FAITHFULNESS – never leaving; always there

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**ABOUT ADVENT** 

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." In this season, we remember that Jesus came down to be born as a little baby. When we celebrate Advent, we remind ourselves that all people have hearts sick with sin. Nobody can make their own heart healthy. But Jesus came to save sinners! We celebrate that Jesus came to make sick hearts healthy for all who love and trust Him. **About the Art:** The bright star reminds us of the one above the manger. The best part of the Advent season is the promised hope, the Light of the World.



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, **Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Isaiah 9:6

> GOVERNMENT – a group of people who are in charge of a country COUNSELOR – a person who guides EVERLASTING – going on; continuing forever PEACE – calm, safety or rest

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