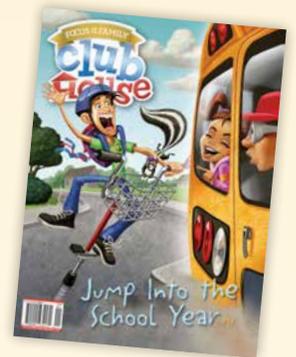


the official
AVERAGE BOY
podcast

Devotions for **SUPER AVERAGE FAMILIES**

Get ready to experience one year's worth of weekly devotions that your kids are sure to love. Laugh and learn about God together with the "Official Average Boy" podcast. Based on the award-winning humor column from *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* magazine (for kids 8-12), this podcast and these discussion questions will create faith-filled and fun family times every week.

Hosted by Christian comedian Bob Smiley and *Focus on the Family Clubhouse* editor Jesse Florea, every podcast is packed with biblical advice that will appeal to boys and girls. Over the next year, you'll dig deeper into serving others, reading the Bible, setting goals, showing patience, overcoming fear, finding your identity in Christ, defending your faith and lots more!



Get started now by picking a day of the week for family devotions. Plan it into your schedule, so it becomes a priority and something your kids look forward to. Start your time together by listening to a podcast at AverageBoy.org (or whenever you get your podcasts). There are 52 podcasts, so listen to one each week. Then go through the discussion questions. Feel free to ask follow-up questions during your discussion or add questions of your own. End each night by praying together. Snacks or dessert can also be a great idea. (Average Boy says pie is his favorite.)

**Living for God is an exciting adventure,
so build up your family's faith in Christ!**



Episode 1: Stewardship

- Which of God's creations is your favorite? Why?
- Which of God's gifts are you most thankful for?
- How can you be a good steward of the things God has given you?
- What are some ways our family can care for the environment?
- What are some ways you can show care for God's creatures?
- Name some items that our family can recycle.
- How do God's resources provide for our family?

Episode 2: Technology

- What is your favorite technology to use? Why do you like it?
- Why is it important to take breaks from technology to go outside, exercise or do different activities?
- What is so important about living in the moment?
- Have there been important people, events or moments you have missed because you were distracted by technology?
- In what ways can technology be good? In what ways can it be unhelpful?
- List some ways that, by spending less time using technology, you can grow closer to God, spend time with friends and family or serve in the community.

Challenge: Put away the technology for a week. What did you learn about yourself in that time? What did you spend your time doing?

Episode 3: God's Body

- What do bees and being part of God's body have in common?
- What unique skills has God given you?
- Why do you think that He gave you those particular skills?
- How can you use those skills to bring glory to God and to bless others?
- Would you rather be the head or the foot of a body? Why?
- List some ways you could serve in the body of Christ.

Episode 4: Manners

- Why are manners so important?
- List some ways you can show good manners.
- What are some times and places where it's especially important to have good manners?

- How can having good manners and respecting others help us share God's love?
- Name some ways you can use good manners to build up others around you.

Episode 5: Reading the Bible

- What is your favorite book or verse in the Bible? What makes it your favorite?
- What type of books do you like to read? For example, do you like stories with lots of adventure? How about mysteries or historical stories? Do you have a favorite book?
- In what ways can you live out God's Word?
- Talk about a time when God turned something into a bigger and better blessing than anyone expected.
- What are some ways you could read and study the Bible?

Challenge: Memorize a new Bible verse or passage this week.

Episode 6: Godly Friends

- Why is it important to make good friends?
- Are the friends you currently spend time with a good influence or a bad influence? Do they draw you closer to God or pull you away?
- Who is your best friend? Why is he or she your best friend?
- What are some ways you can stand up to negative peer pressure?
- Talk about a time when you did something you knew was wrong. What lesson did you learn from it?
- How can you encourage your friends to follow God?





Episode 7: Responsibility

- Do you consider yourself a reliable person?
- In what areas could you be more reliable?
- What are some things others rely on you to do?
- How can keeping your commitments help others?
- Talk about a time when you broke a promise or didn't keep a commitment. What was the result?
- How do your actions impact others when you aren't reliable?
- How can being reliable and responsible help you share God's love?

Episode 8: Finding a Mentor

- Do you have a mentor? Who is it?
- What do you most admire about your mentor?
- Why are mentors important?
- How can a mentor guide you and encourage you in your walk with Christ?
- List some ways you can be a good mentor to others.
- If you could pick one person in the Bible to be your mentor, who would it be? Why?

Episode 9: Body = Temple of God

- Why is it important to take care of our bodies?
- List some ways you can keep your body strong and healthy.
- Has God ever used your strength to help others?
- What are some ways you can strengthen your spirit, as well as, your body?
- What is your favorite way to build up your body? Your spirit?
- How can you be content with your body, even if it's not what you hoped for (i.e. wanting to be stronger, taller, thinner, etc.)?

Episode 10: Identity in Christ

- Where does your worth come from?
- How did God create you uniquely?
- Talk about a situation where you didn't feel like you were good enough, strong enough, fast enough, etc. How did you overcome it?
- What special skills has God given you?
- Was there ever a time when you took your focus off of God? What was the result? How are things different when you keep your life focused on God?
- How does finding our identity in Christ give us peace and confidence?

- How does knowing Jesus as our Savior make us way above average?

Episode 11: Salvation

- How can you share your faith with your friends who don't know Jesus?
- List some friends that you could invite to church.
- Talk about a time when you had to forgive someone or receive their forgiveness. How did you feel afterward?
- Is it possible to get to heaven without Jesus?
- When did you accept Jesus into your heart? How has He changed you?
- If you haven't accepted Jesus, what has held you back? Are you willing to accept His love now?

Tip: Go to **FocusOnTheFamily.com** and search "Leading Your Child to Christ."

Episode 12: Siblings

- Do you get along well with your brothers or sisters?
- Do you think your relationship with your siblings will change as you get older?
- How can you encourage and show love to your family?
- How can you encourage their walk with Jesus?
- List some ways that can you be a good brother or sister.
- Name some positive characteristics that you see in your siblings.

Episode 13: Service

- What does the Bible say about serving others?
- Why should we serve others?
- Name some examples of how Jesus served others.
- How can serving others be a way to share God's love with them?
- List some ways you can serve your family, friends, neighbors, church or community.

Challenge: Go to **BringYourBible.org/Livelt** to plan a time to serve this month.





Episode 14: Forgiveness

- Are there people in your life you need to forgive for something? What do you need to forgive them for and why is it important that you do?
- What does the Bible say about forgiving others? Look up at least three verses that discuss forgiveness, starting with Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:13 and Proverbs 17:9.
- Have you ever not forgiven someone and started to feel bitter toward that person? Why is that dangerous? How does forgiveness help you?
- How does it make you feel to know that God will always forgive your sins when you confess them to Him?
- How can you follow God's example in extending forgiveness to other people?

Episode 15: Setting Goals

- What are some goals you have for this year? How about for your future?
- Read Proverbs 21:5. How can planning help you achieve your goals?
- Are there new things you want to try? Think about ways you could break out of your comfort zone and do something new.
- List some ways you can live out your faith.
- Write a few goals that can help you have a stronger relationship with Jesus.

Episode 16: Self-Control

- Are there times in your life when you get angry? What do you get angry about?
- Why is it important to have self-control and keep anger in check?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23. Would you want to be friends with someone who displays all those characteristics? Why? Which fruit of the Spirit is lacking the most in your life?
- How can being angry lead to sin? What are some ways you can calm down when you are angry?
- Are there moments in your life when you can be greedy? What are some ways you can learn to share with others in those moments?

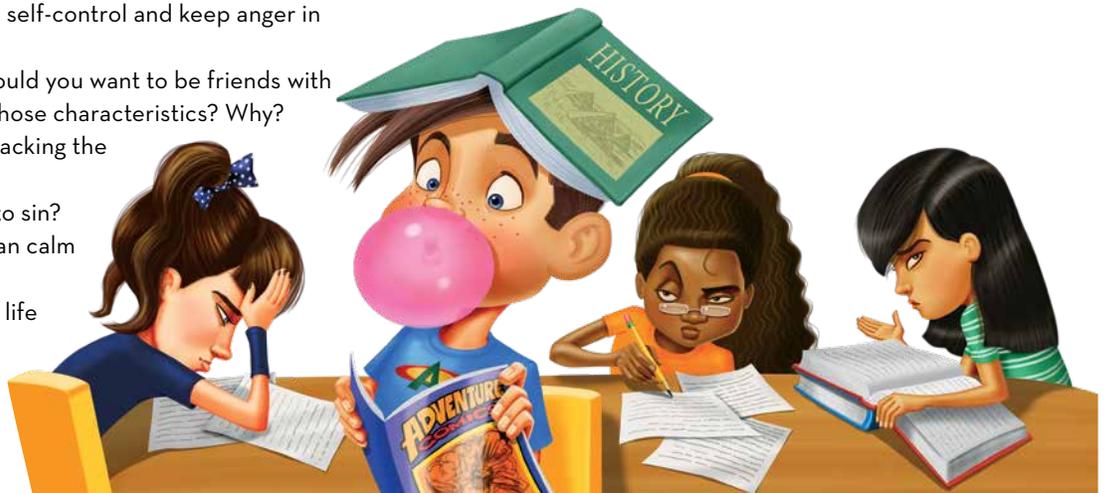
Episode 17: Getting Along With Parents

- What are some of your favorite things to do on vacation? Is it easier or harder to get along as a family on vacation? Why?
- Are there certain issues that cause friction with your parents? Talk about them. Is there a time of the day that tends to have more disagreements? If so, what can you do to make the situation better?
- How can wisdom and understanding help parents and kids get along?
- What are some things you can contribute to a good relationship with your parents?
- How can communicating with your parents make your relationship stronger?

Episode 18: Showing Respect

- What was your favorite or most memorable school assembly? How did you and your classmates show respect to the speaker?
- Have you made any bad decisions recently? What was the outcome?
- Have you ever done or said things that were disrespectful? How can pausing to think about your words and actions help?
- Read 1 Peter 2:17. List some ways that you can show respect toward others and toward God.
- How can pride make us less respectful and loving toward others?

Challenge: Go to BringYourBible.org/Livelt to see how respect can be a gift as you live out God's Word in what you do.





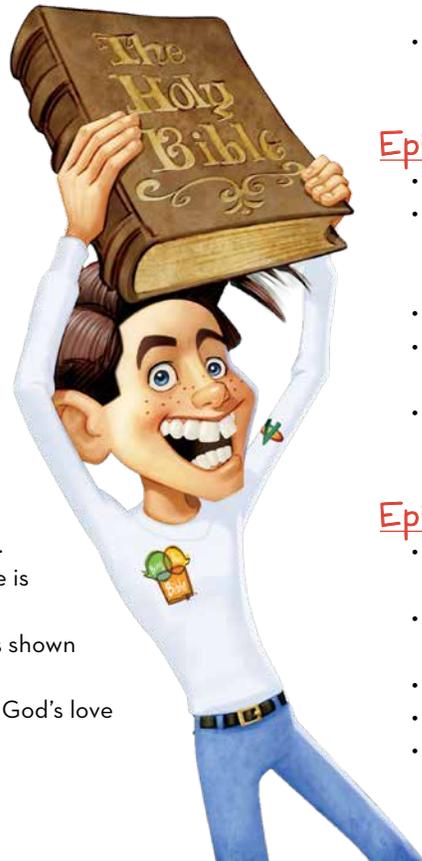
Episode 19: Prayer

- What's the purpose of prayer?
- What are some of your favorite places to pray?
- Name at least one way God has answered one of your prayers. Maybe the answer was *no* or *wait*. Why do you think God doesn't answer all your prayers like you'd want Him to?
- Why is it helpful to use the acrostic—**P**=praise, **R**=repent, **A**=ask, **Y**=yield—when you pray?
- How can See You at the Pole and Bring Your Bible to School Day be a witness to others about how much you love God?

Challenge: Go to BringYourBible.org/LiveIt to download the "7 Days of Prayer Guide."

Episode 20: The Armor of God

- How can you stand up for other followers of Christ when they're being "attacked"?
- Have you ever felt attacked for your faith in Jesus? What did you do?
- Read Ephesians 6:13-17. Talk about the purpose of each piece of God's armor. Which piece of God's armor do you think is the most important?
- Why is it important to put on the full armor of God each day?



Episode 21: God's Love

- How does it make you feel to know God loves you so much that He calls you His child?
- Read 1 John 3:1, 1 John 4:7-8, Romans 5:8 and Psalm 136:26. Which verse about God's love is your favorite?
- What are some ways God has shown His love to you?
- List some ways you can show God's love to others.

Episode 22: Volunteering

- Why is volunteering a good way to show God's love?
- Have you ever volunteered? What did you do and how did you feel afterward?
- Read Proverbs 11:25. How does this verse relate to spending your time to help others?
- List some other ways you could volunteer.
- Do you ever feel like God has too many rules? How does loving God and loving others help you follow His commands?

Episode 23: Thankfulness

- How can we take God for granted? Why is it important to have a thankful attitude and focus on God's blessings?
- Name some things you are thankful for today.
- How can an attitude of gratitude change your outlook during tough times?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 1 Chronicles 16:34 and Colossians 3:15-17. Which Bible verse about being thankful is your favorite, and how can you apply it to your life?
- Do you have a favorite Bible verse or a family verse? If so, what is it? If not, choose one and memorize it as a family.

Episode 24: Sharing Your Faith

- Do you find it scary to share your faith with others? Why?
- Read 1 Peter 3:15. How would you answer if someone asked you, "Why do you believe in Jesus?" Take turns as a family to give a gentle and respectful reply.
- Why is it important to share your faith in God?
- Name a few people with whom you could share the good news of Jesus.
- How can going to church and building your faith in Jesus help you better share your faith?

Episode 25: Using Our Brains

- Look around. How did God create an orderly, logical universe? How is your brain and body wonderfully made?
- Read Proverbs 18:15 and 1:7. How can gaining knowledge and thinking logically help you understand more about God?
- What is the best piece of advice that you've ever heard?
- List some ways you can exercise your brain.
- What's a question about your faith you haven't had answered yet? Take time as a family to look through the Bible or talk with a pastor about it.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Episode 26: Honesty

- Have you ever been in a situation where you had the choice to be honest or dishonest? What did you do? What happened?
- Why is “honesty the best policy?”
- Read Ephesians 4:25. Why is lying dangerous?
- How is being honest a “heart” issue? Why is being honorable so important?
- What is your favorite part about knowing God?

Episode 27: Personality Differences

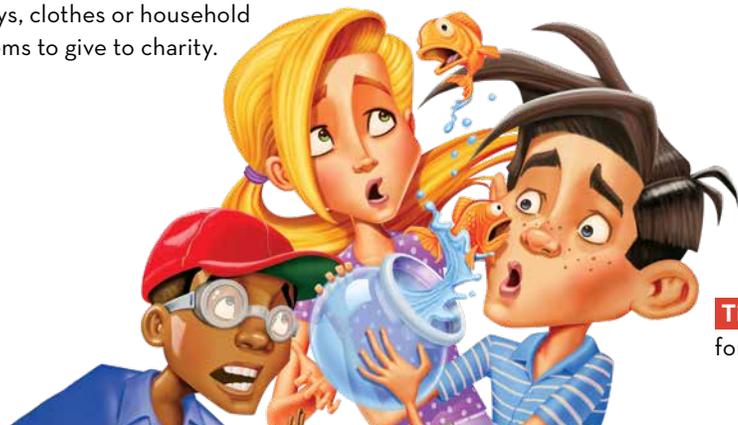
- List a few personality traits you think God has given you.
- Of the personalities mentioned, which do you think you are: The Leader, The Thinker, The Talker or The Peacemaker?
- What personalities do you think your closest friends and family members have?
- Name some ways you can get along with people who have a different personality than you do.
- Why is it so important to show kindness to people who are different than you?

Challenge: Go to BringYourBible.org/LiveIt to take a personality quiz.

Episode 28: Getting Organized

- Read James 1:19-20. Name some ways you can live a righteous life.
- In what ways can you get more organized this week?
- Are there things you don’t use anymore that you could give to charity? Name a few.
- Do you get nervous when you have to pray out loud? What are a few ways you can overcome that fear?

Challenge: As a family try to put together at least one box of toys, clothes or household items to give to charity.



Episode 29: Patience

- Talk about one time you had to be really patient.
- Do you consider yourself a patient person? Why or why not?
- What things can cause you to lose your patience?
- Read 1 Corinthians 13:4 and Proverbs 15:18. Why is patience so key to being loving? How can patience bring peace?
- What steps can you take to become a more patient person?

Episode 30: Running the Race for God

- What is your favorite Olympic sport and why?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2. In what ways is our relationship with Christ like a marathon?
- What are some ways we can serve God with endurance, even when trials come?
- Talk about the importance of keeping our eyes on Jesus in all circumstances. Why is it so important to keep putting one foot in front of the other? (See Psalm 37:23)
- How can our faithfulness to God impact other people?

Episode 31: Humility

- What is humility? Talk about a time where you had to be humble.
- Read James 4:6 and Luke 14:11. Why is it important to be humble?
- List some ways to live with a humble attitude.
- Read 1 Peter 5:6-7. How can being humble make you more available to be used by God?
- It’s easy to put ourselves and our needs first. Why does God want us to think of others more than ourselves?

Episode 32: Chores

- What chores do you enjoy doing? Which chores do you dislike?
- Why are doing chores important?
- You were created to work. What do Genesis 2:15 and 2 Thessalonians 3:10 tell us about the importance of work?
- How can doing chores teach us how to serve others?
- Talk about how you accepted Jesus into your life. If you haven’t accepted Him, do you want to pray and express your belief in Jesus now?

Tip: Look up Focus on the Family’s “Chore Wars” download for helpful ideas.



Episode 33: Peaceful Conflict Resolution

- Have you had a conflict with someone recently? What happened and how was it resolved?
- What are some ways you can resolve conflicts peacefully?
- Read Romans 12:18. Why does God want you to live at peace with everyone?
- What activities or things are your top priorities? Where does God land on that list?
- Name some ways you can put God first in your life.
- How can giving others grace help prevent or resolve conflicts?

Episode 34: Honoring Those Who Help

- Think of all the different people who help you every week. Are you surprised by the number of people who pour into your life? How would your life be different if those people weren't there to help?
- What does it mean to honor someone? How can you find creative ways to honor the helpers in your life?
- Can you think of a favorite Bible verse that would encourage a helper? Write it down and send it to them . . . or put it in a text!
- What are some ways you help others?
- In John 14:16, the Holy Spirit is called a "Helper." How does the Holy Spirit help you follow Jesus better? How can you honor the Holy Spirit?

Episode 35: Overcoming Fear

- What are some of your fears? Do your fears ever feel like the segway Average Boy rode that goes fast and doesn't stop? How can you get your fears to slow down?
- Write down the words "Fear not" and then fill in your fears after those words (i.e. "Fear not the dark.") Put your list somewhere as a reminder that God doesn't want you to be afraid.
- Memorize Deuteronomy 31:8 as a family. If God is always with you, what would you like to tell Him about your fears? How do you think he would answer you?
- If you're afraid of sharing your faith in Jesus, what are the fears creating that feeling? How can you overcome those fears?
- How can some fears help you make better decisions?

Episode 36: Listening

- What's the difference between hearing and really listening?
- When do you tend to listen best? When is it hard for you to listen?
- Read Proverbs 18:13. Why is it important to listen before you give an answer or advice?
- Do you think others would know you have Jesus in your heart by watching what you do and how you act? If not, what do you need to change so your life better reflects Jesus?
- Think of a way you can be kind and tenderhearted toward someone special in your life. Then do it!

Episode 37: Using Creativity

- What was it like for you to spend more time at home last year? What did you do and think about the most?
- Was it hard to put up with your family members while you were home? What were the best ways you found to get along?
- Read Colossians 3:13. How can this verse help you get along better when you're stuck together?
- Write a prayer to God that asks Him to help you lean on him in hard times and tells Him what you are thankful for. Pray it as a family.
- Did you come up with any creative ways to encourage neighbors and elderly friends who weren't able to see other people?
- How have others shown you God's love during difficult times?





Episode 38: Common Sense

- In the story about the cockroach, did Average Boy use common sense? What would you have done?
- Think of some times you used good judgment or common sense? How did that help you or someone else?
- How can knowing God's Word increase our ability to have good judgment?
- Romans 15:2 says, "Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." How do you build up your friends, neighbors and family members?
- Do you see yourself as a contributor to others? How do you contribute to others? Choose one way to contribute to someone today.

- How can you start working now to accomplish those goals? Talk about how Galatians 6:7-9 makes a difference for what you accomplish in the future.
- What future goals can you achieve as a family?
- Talk about a time you reached a goal. How did you feel? What obstacles did you face and how did you overcome them?

Episode 41: Obedience

- Why is obedience so important?
- Read 1 John 5:3. How can obedience equal love?
- What are some of the most important rules in your family? Talk about why they're so important.
- Has there ever been a time when someone told you to do something against the rules? How did you react?
- How does obeying God, your parents and society's laws keep you safe?

Episode 42: Being Flexible

- How do you deal with unexpected events or changes to your plans?
- How can not giving up and showing perseverance help you live a healthier life?
- Read James 1:2-4. Talk about a time that you didn't give up during a difficult situation. What happened? Did you grow stronger?
- Who encourages you to be flexible? How can you encourage them?
- How can you practice perseverance and flexibility?

Episode 43: Defending Your Faith

- Has anyone ever asked you why you believe in Jesus? What did you say?
- Find some verses as a family that explain what you believe and memorize them together.
- Practice defending your faith with your family. Take turns asking each other questions about God and answering them.
- What are some creative ways to share your faith?
- Why is listening and asking questions important in defending your faith in Jesus?
- What examples of God can you find in the world around you? How can you share those with others?

Episode 39: Setting Boundaries

- Are you able to say "no" to your friends when they tell you to do something you're not supposed to do?
- How can you create healthy boundaries for yourself?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. Are there any relationships that you need to end or put up stronger boundaries?
- How can you be a light in a dark world?
- Sometimes people in our lives keep us safe. Who are the people in your life that keep you safe and provide healthy boundaries for you? Write thank-you notes to those people.
- How can you show your friends that it's important to have healthy boundaries?

Episode 40: Hope for the Future

- How does God give us a "hope for the future"?
- Read Romans 8:25. What sort of things do you hope for in your future?





Episode 44: Trying New Things

- Have you ever tried something you thought you wouldn't like? What happened?
- Is there something new you have wanted to try but haven't? Do it now.
- What makes you nervous about trying new things?
- How is trying new things part of a healthy lifestyle? Think of something new you can try as a family.
- How can trying new things help you find and develop hidden talents and abilities?

Episode 45: God's Grace

- What is a good definition of grace?
- When was a time someone showed you grace? How did that make you feel?
- Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Why is God's grace so important?
- Talk about the acronym: God's Riches At Christ's Expense.
- Who in your life is awesome at giving others grace? How can you be more like that person?
- List four ways you can show God's grace to others.

Episode 46: Homework

- Why is it important to do your homework?
- Brainstorm a homework routine or how you can make your current routine even better. If you need ideas, ask your teacher for homework tips.
- What are some things that keep you from doing the best you can on your homework? How can you work on those things?
- Think of ideas that would make you more excited to use a homework planner. Do you like fun pens or stickers?
- Read Colossians 3:23. How does this verse relate to your homework and other responsibilities?
- Why does God want you to be responsible with your homework?

Episode 47: Intentionality

- How are intentionality and trustworthiness related?
- Who is the most trustworthy person you know? What makes that person trustworthy?
- Can you think of a person in the Bible who is trustworthy? Read a story about that person.
- Is there an area in your life where you need to be more intentional in order to succeed? Make a list of ways you can improve.
- How does keeping your promises honor God and others?

Episode 48: Dealing With Bullies

- Have you ever been bullied or seen a friend bullied? How did you react?
- Make a plan for the next time you're bullied or you see someone else bullied. Write down the steps you should take.
- Do you think God loves bullies? Why or why not?
- Have you ever bullied someone? Why do you think you acted like you did? Did you ask for forgiveness from that person and from God?
- Read Ephesians 4:32, Luke 6:35 and Romans 2:4. Choose one of these verses (or one you find as a family) to write on a notecard and put up where you'll see it.
- Write a prayer for a bully you know. Say it before you go to bed at night.





Episode 49: Connecting With Others

- Why is building community important to you as a Christian?
- What do you do when you feel lonely? Do you think that's a healthy way to deal with your loneliness?
- Think of a time when you were discouraged. How did friends or family encourage you?
- Make a list of 5 ways you can encourage your family and friends.
- Is there anyone you know who needs a friend? How can you help that person be less lonely?
- Do you and your friends or siblings spend more time watching movies and playing video games than interacting with each other? What are some things you could do that don't involve screens?
- Do you think God understands your loneliness? Why or why not? Use your Bible to help you answer.

- How can you better live out the apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 4:29?

Challenge: Go to BringYourBible.org/Livelt to find out how to start a "Family Contributor Journal" to encourage each other.

Episode 52: Help for the Holidays

- What's your favorite holiday? Why?
- What's the most stressful part of the holidays for you? How can your family help remove some of that stress?
- Why is it important to show gratitude for any gift you receive? How does your attitude affect you and others at the celebration?
- What's the most important part of any holiday celebration? How can keeping this in mind make the holiday better for everyone?

Episode 50: Rest

- Why is it important to pause, rest and rejuvenate our minds and bodies?
- What are some things that fill up your physical and emotional tanks and make you feel rejuvenated?
- Name a time when you were too tired and fatigued to give your best. How could resting beforehand have changed that situation?
- Read Matthew 11:28. Why is it a good idea to go to Jesus when you feel wiped out?
- List some things you can do to help you rest and to rejuvenate your mind.

Episode 51: Positive Communication

- How do you imagine heaven? What does the Bible tell us that heaven will be like?
- Why is it important to choose our words carefully?
- Studies have shown it takes at least six positive comments to undo the effects of one negative comment. Do you think that's true? Why or why not?
- Name a time when you have spoken kindly to someone and it made a big impact.
- Why is body language important in how you communicate? How can texting be taken the wrong way?

