

6

and give you
peace



The Hebrew word for peace (שלום shalom) means completeness, wholeness, nothing missing, nothing broken, everything as it should be, complete health and safety, abundance and wellness.

It is God's best plan for us.

GodVenture

Read Judges 6:1-24

What jumps out at you in this story?

How would you describe Gideon?

What impact do you think this encounter had on Gideon's life?

What might peace look like your life?

CHALLENGE

Re-tell this story in your own words.

You could do a sentence each then swap narrators!

What do you discover as you do this?

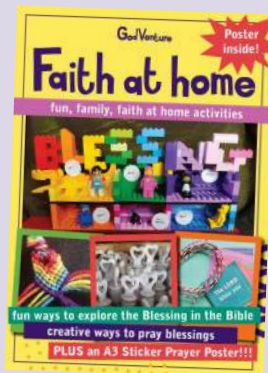
get
more

You can explore the word 'shalom' further, as well as other Hebrew words, by following links at GodVenture.co.uk/blessing

This resource is an extension of the Blessing Faith at Home Mini-Mag from GodVenture, which comes with stickers and postcards inside!

You can get individual copies for £4 or a pack to give to other families at:

www.GodVenture.co.uk



B/Extra Blessing

Explore more of the blessing

The Blessing
Numbers 6:24 - 26
NIV

The Lord
bless you



and
keep you



The Lord
make his face
shine on you



and be
gracious
to you



The Lord
turn his face
towards you



and give you
peace



Use this resource to help you explore each phrase of the blessing in turn, using the questions and a challenge.

1

The Lord
bless you



The Hebrew word for 'bless' is בָּרַךְ, 'barak'.

It includes all physical, emotional, social and spiritual goodness.

There is a wonderful list of blessings in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

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Read

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

How many blessings can you spot?

Which one appeals most to you?

Which are difficult to relate to?

CHALLENGE

Work together to create your own version of these verses in Deuteronomy. Imagine God is sending this blessing for you family. You could look at different Bible versions for inspiration.

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2

and
keep you



Once blessed, this prayer requests protection.

The root of this Hebrew word for 'keep' (שמרדך yismereka) means to protect, guard, keep, and preserve.

Psalm 121 uses this root word 6 times in 8 verse!

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Read Psalm 121

Which is your favourite line?
Have you ever needed God to be a protecting, preserving God for you?

CHALLENGE

Share stories of times you have needed God to protect or guard you. You might want to read stories of other Christians who have depended on God to preserve them in difficult times, such as Corrie Ten Boom.

4

and be
gracious
to you



Grace is better to experience than to describe!

It is the gift of unmerited favour.

'Grace and peace' is a common prayer used by Paul (e.g. Romans 1:7).

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Read Genesis 33:1-11

Count how many times Jacob refers to grace in this story.
Why do you think this is?
What might grace look like for you?

CHALLENGE

Make a chart to count the times you experience 'unmerited favour' in your lives, and how often you are able to give it to others.
(You might need to plan the latter!)

3

The Lord
make his face
shine on you



The Hebrew word for face (פנים panim) means both
1. physical face and also
2. presence - the effect a person on those near them.

In Exodus 33:15 Moses says they cannot go without God's presence (panim) with them.

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Read Exodus 33:7-23

Spot all mentions of face and back.
The word 'presence' (v. 14) is from the Hebrew root 'panim'. What might it mean for God's presence to shine on us?

CHALLENGE

Invent actions for the words 'face' and 'back' and do them as you read this passage again. What strikes you most in this story?

5

The Lord
turn his face
towards you



God's face towards us shows his favour and blessing - he is for us!

It is like the king reaching out his sceptre to Esther in Esther 5:2.

"Do not hide your face from me." says Psalm 27:9

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Read Psalm 27:1-14

Which verse jumps out to you?
Which words do you like most?
According to this psalm, what will we experience when God's face is towards us?

CHALLENGE

Choose one verse from this psalm to learn and treasure as a family.