

# PARENT NEWSLETTER 1 | 2015-16 GEMS SEASON



## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Every family has a story. What's yours? When the layers of facts about names and birthdates are peeled back from the genealogy tree, what do the inner rings reveal about your family? What's your story?

It's when we share stories that we get to know one another. And if we keep inviting each other into the fullness of each new page and chapter, we'll not only be able to finish one another's sentences but also see each hurt and hope. The same is true with God. It's within His story that we get to know His character and His heart.

*Choose Truth* is the theme for the 2015-2016 GEMS season. It's a theme that will inspire girls and their families to get in God's Book and read His story.

The Bible is amazing! It's dynamic, active, and true. The storyline is about God's plan to rescue us, and the hero is Jesus. All of Scripture points to Him, and when we find our story woven into His, it shines light that directs our way.

Will you join us in reading God's Story and learning who He is and all He's doing? To do so, regularly ask your daughter(s) what she learned at club. Use these parent newsletters and other resources from your local club and GEMS Girls' Clubs ([gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org)). Come learn with us how God's Word is a light to guide our steps and shape our stories!

## THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO!

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).*

## DID YOU KNOW?

GEMS has a new and easy to navigate website. Show your daughters! They will be super-glued to the craft/recipe section, and Kelli (the editor of *Sparkle* and *SHINE brightly* Magazines) has a blog that helps them go deeper with each month's theme. Visit [gemsgc.org](http://gemsgc.org) and click GIRLS on the top menu.

## TABLE TALK

One of the best ways to build relationships with God and one another is at the table. Research has concluded that eating family meals together increases children's chance of success in the world, a family's health, and our values in society!

The next time your family gathers around the table, use these theme-related table talk questions to get your family talking about the things of God:

1. Whether told through a book or movie, what is your favorite kind of story? Mystery, romance, adventure, biographies, etc.
2. Think about your life. You're telling a story! What book title could you give your story to describe your life today?
3. The Bible is like no other book. It's God's Story. It reveals His character and heart. In short, it's truth! How important are Jesus and the Bible to your family?

## FAMILY FUN

**A Family Timeline:** On a long sheet of butcher paper or poster board, draw a line that extends from one side to the other. This is your Family Timeline. Fill in significant moments like birthdates, a move, starting school, learning to ride a bike, and so on. Keep in mind that your timeline will probably include times of celebration and crisis. After everyone has contributed, on the far right write the date it will be 10 years from today. Ask, "What story does our family want to tell within the next 10 years?"

**Movie Night:** Choose a movie, menu, and night for your family to enjoy a film together. When finished, talk about the storyline. What parts did you like best? Was there conflict? If so, how was it resolved? Then think about your family's story. What are your favorite parts? If there is hard stuff, how can you engage in the conflict and work through it together?

**Leaf Tracing:** Take a walk or hike and collect leaves of all shapes and sizes. Place the leaves under tracing paper (found at most craft and office supply stores) and run crayons or colored pencils over them. Display on the refrigerator or "matte" with fall-colored construction paper.

