

# KIDStory®

A PROGRAM OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

## YEAR D

"Generation after generation stands in awe of (God's) work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4 (MSG)



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# Welcome to KIDStory & KIDStory Clubs

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***Generation after generation stands in awe of (God's) work; each one tells stories of Your mighty acts.*** Psalm 145:4 (MSG)

We are so glad you have decided to reach and disciple children in your community. The materials and lessons in this manual are part of a strategy called KIDStory which equips leaders to create environments where more kids are walking in the love of Jesus. We believe what you will discover here will revolutionize the way you teach from the Bible, and through His Word and Spirit, your life will be transformed as well. Children will become eye-witnesses and active participants in God's Story and not just be distant observers. KIDStory relies on Jesus' method of teaching: telling stories, interactive experiences and meaningful discussions.

These strategies are fun to learn, and they are easy to use and share with others. Leaders are taught to listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit and the responses of the children, then encourage the children to also listen and be obedient to God's voice. The questions and interactions posed by the leaders are not just to learn information, but to facilitate Holy Spirit transformation of the heart and mind. KIDStory is about God transforming a life, a family and ultimately a community through His Story and His Spirit.

## CORE ESSENTIALS

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There are certain things you will find in every aspect of KIDStory, whether you are training leaders or leading a group of children. We want to create environments where children learn: who God is, who they are (their purpose and value) and how to have a relationship with Jesus that is real and personal. We believe these things will happen when the following core essentials are practiced:

- **Bible Centered:** The core of every lesson, both in teaching children and training leaders, is the Bible Story. Everything continually keeps coming back to the story and discovering who God is and how to follow Him.
- **Fun:** We want these truths to stick and become a part of a child's everyday life. In order for this to happen and to engage a child, it needs to be fun. When there is fun and laughter, children will want to be involved, come back and bring their friends with them.
- **Reproducing:** KIDStory is simple and practical. Leaders can show others how to use this strategy and the kids can retell the Bible Stories to family and friends.
- **Relational:** Of all the things that draw children closest to Jesus, significant relationships are by far the most critical thing needed. It's not just about teaching a lesson, but it's getting to know the children and what is stirring in their hearts and souls.
- **Spirit-led:** Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be the One to reveal all the things that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit is the One who transforms a life. We need to be listening and moving in directions the Holy Spirit leads us in.

# KIDStory Clubs

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*... are environments where more kids are encountering the love of Jesus.*

**A KIDStory Club is a place where** children have fun and are free to share what they are learning and experiencing; a place where God's presence is very real and evident. Jesus created this kind of environment by welcoming, loving and blessing the children. It's here that children are not just learning from a book, but through relationships. It's where they feel safe and are known and accepted and do likewise for others. KIDStory Clubs are also a safe place for parents and leaders to learn and grow in how to lead children spiritually – a place where people are consistently equipped and encouraged.

**A KIDStory Club can meet** wherever and whenever is most convenient and leaders can even give it their own name. What makes a KIDStory Club unique is the application of the 5 Core Essentials. In a KIDStory Club, the stories of the Bible are told in fun, creative ways, while being Biblically accurate. As important as it is to tell God's story, it is not enough. It's also about listening – listening to the Spirit and listening to a child reveal how the Spirit is stirring their heart.

**The methods used to tell and retell God's story are** coupled with engaging questions that allow the Holy Spirit to operate in the hearts of kids. It capitalizes on what children have heard and learned so that it becomes a discovery process, bringing about true life change. The questions posed by leaders are not just for retention but for transformation of the heart and mind, leading to real life application. Fostering this kind of environment provides leaders the opportunity to follow up on the things the Holy Spirit is teaching and revealing.

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Before we get to the actual lessons, we want to briefly let you know the different elements of a KIDStory lesson and a KIDStory Club. The next 3 pages were created to outline and describe these different components - each one has a distinct purpose to engage the children in the Bible, with one another and with God Himself.

For more information about Kids Around the World, go to [katw.net](http://katw.net)

For more information specifically about KIDStory, go to [katw.net/kidstory](http://katw.net/kidstory)

So, Welcome!! We pray the Lord opens up many doors for you to impact children with God's transforming hope through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit.

# Lesson Format for KIDStory

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## Opening:

- Choose a question or activity where children can share a personal story.
- The answer should generate an emotion from the children.
- Ask a question that needs an answer more than “Yes” or “No.”

## Background:

- Define words or explain geographical locations and cultural differences the children may not know.
- Explain important events that happened before today’s story.
- Review important concepts from the previous story if applicable.

## Tell the Story:

- Break down story into 4 or 5 “chapters.”
- Involve the children in the story.
- Use dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging and interactive. Use visual objects to show the group if possible.
- Keep the length of the story appropriate for the children to learn so they can tell others.

## Retell:

- Have children use their Bibles to read and retell the story.
- Choose a game or activity to engage the children.

## Discover & Response Questions:

- Pray about this lesson regarding where the Holy Spirit might lead the discussion.
- Use questions that engage the heart and not just the head.

The Opening doesn’t have to be directly tied to the Bible story but gets the children thinking in that direction.

You don’t want to stop during the story to explain words so make sure to go over them all in the Background time.

Tell the story just as it is in the Bible. Don’t add your own words or interpretations. Make it memorable but stay true to God’s Word. It is crucial that the children know that the story comes from the Bible and that it is true.

Make sure the children are being Biblically accurate when retelling the story.

Move the children from remembering facts in the story to what God is doing in their hearts and lives. We want the Spirit to speak to each person for the implication that will be for them specifically.

# Ideas for KIDStory Lessons

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## **Tell the Story:**

- Use costumes or objects.
- Have children make sound effects (rubbing hands to make the sound of rain).
- Move around the room. Use lots of facial expressions.
- Tell the story in First Person (as though you were one of the characters in the story).

## **Retell:**

- Game: Musical Chairs. Person standing without a chair tells first part of story. Repeat until story is done.
- Art: Billboard. Design a roadside billboard to tell the story.
- Drama: Give children an object and see how many ways they can use it to tell the story.
- Music: Create a rap of the main events in the story.
- Writing: What's Next. Have the children write out what God wants them to do with what they heard in the story.

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## **Discover & Response Questions:**

### **Head Questions (Facts)**

- What stood out in the story?
- Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell/feel?
- What is Jesus/God teaching them in this story?
- How did God/Jesus respond when...
- What have we learned about what God/Jesus is like?
- How are the characters alike or different in the story?

### **Hand Questions (Action)**

- What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to change your life?
- After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
- Who can you share this story with this week?
- How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?

### **Heart Questions (Feelings)**

- What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story?
- What do you think was going on in \_\_\_\_\_'s heart and mind in this story?
- How do you feel about God/Jesus now?
- Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?

# Sample Format for KIDStory Clubs

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## Welcome:

- Greet children and create an environment where they are welcomed
- Formal opening to the club time
- Prayer

## Games:

- Have fun!
- Children and leaders are engaged, where relationships are being built.
- Choose games where all the children can be involved.

## Large Group:

- *KidConnect*: Children gather in small groups with their leaders to share stories from the week which includes following up on previous decisions from answering the Hand Questions. The Opening could be done here or in the large group.
- Worship: Connecting with God.
- Background and creative telling of the Bible story.
- Story Review and possibly one Retell activity.

## Small Group:

- Retell the Bible Story using a variety of activities each week.
- Ask head, heart and hand questions.
- Close in prayer and give a blessing.

## Closing:

- Volunteer to retell the Bible story.
- Closing words, announcements, prayer.
- Greet parents.

The Welcome is a time to gather the children together, have them feel welcomed and get connected with the leader and their friends.

You want to create a safe environment where children are having fun, everyone is involved and want to invite their friends.

Discipleship continues as personal interaction can happen with the KidConnect time and following up on previous answers to Hand Questions. The Bible story is told in ways that children can imagine being there. There is community through small group interaction and connecting with God through worship and His Word.

This is a time to show love and care while discipling the children with God's Word and in response to the Spirit's leading.

Bring the club meeting to a close, creating enthusiasm to return with testimonies and friends.

# **Living God's Story**

## **Bible Story Outlines – Year D**

- 1. God Creates Everything – Genesis 2:18-25**
- 2. Cain Kills His Brother Abel – Genesis 4:1-8**
- 3. Joseph's Dreams and Colorful Coat – Genesis 37:3-8**
- 4. Joseph Sold into Slavery – Genesis 37:18-28**
- 5. Joseph Rules in Egypt – Genesis 41:37-42**
- 6. Joseph Reveals Himself to his Family – Genesis 45:4-9**
- 7. Moses: God's People Worship a Golden Calf – Exodus 32:1-14**
- 8. Moses: God's Tabernacle –  
Exodus 35:4-11a, 20-22a, 30; 36:3-6a; 39:32, 43; 40:34 (summarized)**
- 9. God Chooses Gideon – Judges 6:11-24a**
- 10. Gideon Defeats the Enemy – Judges 7:4-7, 16-22**
- 11. Samson Loses his Strength – Judges 16:15-20**
- 12. Jonah Preaches Repentance – Jonah 3:1-6, 10**
- 13. Elisha Brings a Boy Back to Life – 2 Kings 4:25-35**
- 14. Jesus' Birth: Prophecy of Simeon – Luke 2:25-34a**
- 15. Jesus Chooses his First Disciples – Luke 5:1-11**
- 16. Jesus Asks, "Are You Wise or Foolish?" – Matthew 7:24-29**
- 17. Jesus: The Story of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37**
- 18. Jesus Casts Out Demons – Mark 5:1-13**
- 19. Jesus Heals Ten Lepers – Luke 17:11-19**
- 20. Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler – Mark 10:17-22**
- 21. Jesus is Alive! – Luke 24:1-12**
- 22. Philip Tells the Ethiopian the Good News of Jesus – Acts 8:26-39**
- 23. God's People Need to Wear His Armor – Ephesians 6:10-18**
- 24. The Apostle John's Dream about Heaven – Revelation 21:1-7**



# God Creates Eve (1)

## Genesis 2:18-25

### ① REVIEW

- This might be the first week with your group in the new year. Discover some things about each child. You might start by sharing some things about yourself. If you have time prior to this first class, put some objects in a box or bag that would help you tell your story; things that tell what you like and memories of when you were a child.

### ② OPENING

Describe something that is really beautiful.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Rope Game:** Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say “STOP,” the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

### BACKGROUND

God has been creating all the different things that we see in this world. He made everything in the skies, the land, and the waters. He created all the animals. He specially created a man who would be called Adam. What would God create from Adam?

### BIBLE STORY

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him.”

From the ground God formed every wild animal and every bird in the sky, and he brought them to the man so the man could name them. Whatever the man called each living thing that became its name.

The man gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds in the sky, and to all the wild animals. But Adam did not find a helper that was right for him. So the LORD God caused the man to sleep very deeply, and while he was asleep, God removed one of the man’s ribs.

Then God closed up the man’s skin at the place where he took the rib. The LORD God used the rib from the man to make a woman, and then he brought the woman to the man.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told?
- What do you think it was like for Adam to be the only person in the garden? What did God think of this?
- Describe a time when you were alone.
- How do you think Adam felt when he woke up and saw Eve? His first words might have been \_\_\_\_\_.
- The story says that God made them male and female. What does that mean to you? What does it mean to God?
- God made boys and girls differently but special and wonderful. What is different and special about us?
- I feel special when \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does this story tell us about God?
- What would you like to tell God about how He made you?
- I believe this week God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

And the man said,

“Now, this is someone whose bones came from my bones, whose body came from my body. I will call her ‘woman,’ because she was taken out of man.”

For older children:

(So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body. The man and his wife were naked, but they were not ashamed.)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Thank you, God, for all that You have created, including me. Lord, bless each child with the love You poured into each thing and person You made.



# God Creates Eve (2)

## Genesis 2:18-25

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell the story from last week.
- Who retold last week's story to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from last week?

### ② OPENING

Who is your biggest helper? What have they helped you with the most?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Bible Story Relay:** Divide the children into teams. They run to a designated spot and back. When they return they have to shout out the next part of the story. Then the next person runs to the spot and back and shouts out the next part of the story till every team has retold the story.

### BACKGROUND

Every animal that God created had a partner. There was only one that did not. It was his special creation – the man. God knew that he also needed someone. God had a special plan here too!

### BIBLE STORY

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him."

From the ground God formed every wild animal and every bird in the sky, and he brought them to the man so the man could name them. Whatever the man called each living thing that became its name.

The man gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds in the sky, and to all the wild animals. But Adam did not find a helper that was right for him. So the LORD God caused the man to sleep very deeply, and while he was asleep, God removed one of the man's ribs.

Then God closed up the man's skin at the place where he took the rib. The LORD God used the rib from the man to make a woman, and then he brought the woman to the man.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What do you think Eve looked like? How would you describe her to someone?
- God has a reason for everything He does. I wonder why He created man and woman so differently.
- What did Adam need that God created Eve?
- I wonder what Eve's first response was to Adam when she first saw him.
- Imagine being Eve in this story. What would you have felt the first day of being alive? What would you have done with Adam?
- How do you feel when you create something you think is really good? How do you think God felt when He created Eve?
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Just like Adam and Eve were important to God, how are you important to God? How is God important to you?
- What is God asking of you because of what you learned from our Bible story today?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

And the man said,

“Now, this is someone whose bones came from my bones, whose body came from my body. I will call her ‘woman,’ because she was taken out of man.”

For older children:

(So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body. The man and his wife were naked, but they were not ashamed.)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, You know our needs before we ask. Bless each one here with a greater trust in You to make them complete



# Cain Kills His Brother Abel <sup>(1)</sup>

Genesis 4:1-8

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Tell of a time when you got hurt really bad.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.

## BACKGROUND

Adam and Eve have disobeyed God and because of that they can no longer live in the special garden God had created for them. But the disobedience and sin would be part of everyone's life after this. People would hurt each other in different ways.

## BIBLE STORY

Eve became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. Eve said, "With the LORD's help, I have given birth to a man." After that, Eve gave birth to Cain's brother Abel. Abel took care of flocks, and Cain became a farmer.

Later, Cain brought some food from the ground as a gift to God. Abel brought the best parts from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. So Cain became very angry and felt rejected.

The LORD asked Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you look so unhappy? If you do things well, I will accept you, but if you do not do them well, sin is ready to attack you. Sin wants you, but you must rule over it."

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out into the field." While they were out in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Who were the different characters in the Bible story today?
- What were each of the characters thinking in the story?
- What could they have done differently?
- What did you discover that pleases God?
- Sometimes I get mad at someone when they \_\_\_\_\_.
- One time I got so mad \_\_\_\_\_.
- How do you think God wants you to respond when you get mad?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What did you learn about God from this story?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- One way in which I feel God wants me to please Him this week is by \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's story still continues. How are you a part of God's story?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God has given us a moral compass to make right choices. Lord, guide us to please You.



# Cain Kills His Brother Abel (2)

Genesis 4:1-8

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Is there someone you have a really hard time getting along with? What do they do that bothers you the most?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Story Parts:** Give each child a certain scene of the story for them to draw. Have the children put the story in order by the drawings that have been made. The children can then retell the story by using the pictures they have drawn.

## BACKGROUND

When God asks us to give Him an offering, He wants us to give Him our best. As I am reading the story, what do you notice about what Cain and Abel offer to the Lord? Listen to what the consequences are.

## BIBLE STORY

Eve became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. Eve said, "With the LORD's help, I have given birth to a man." After that, Eve gave birth to Cain's brother Abel. Abel took care of flocks, and Cain became a farmer.

Later, Cain brought some food from the ground as a gift to God. Abel brought the best parts from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, but he did not accept Cain and his gift. So Cain became very angry and felt rejected.

The LORD asked Cain, "Why are you angry? Why do you look so unhappy? If you do things well, I will accept you, but if you do not do them well, sin is ready to attack you. Sin wants you, but you must rule over it."

Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out into the field." While they were out in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told?
- What choices did Cain and Abel make in regards to the offerings they brought to the Lord?
- What are some different offerings we can give to the Lord?
- God is pleased when I \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is sin? I wonder how we rule over sin?
- What is one step you can take when you are getting mad at someone?
- What does this story tell you about people?
- What does this story tell you about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Who can you share this story with this week?
- Because of what I learned in this story, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God loves to see us offer sacrifices, like money or time. Lord, help us recognize what is just a gift and that which is our best.



# Joseph's Dreams and Colorful Coat (1)

Genesis 37:3-8

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Describe a special gift that someone in your family gave you.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### RETELL

- ⑤ **Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Musical Chairs:** Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

## BACKGROUND

Many years have passed since our last story of Cain killing Abel. God continually watches over His people though they are not always following Him. Eventually there is a man named Jacob who has 12 sons. One son is particularly favored by Jacob. His name is Joseph. Many times dreams have a meaning – there is a reason why God allows us to have them. Many times He speaks to us through our dreams.

## BIBLE STORY

Since Joseph was born when his father Jacob was old, Jacob loved him more than his other sons. He made Joseph a special robe with many colors. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than he loved them, they hated their brother and could not speak to him politely.

One time Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. Joseph said, "Listen to the dream I had. We were in the field tying bundles of wheat together. My bundle stood up, and your bundles of wheat gathered around it and bowed down to it."

His brothers said, "Do you really think you will be king over us? Do you truly think you will rule over us?" His brothers hated him even more because of his dreams and what he had said.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like or not like in the story?
- I wonder why the brothers hated Joseph.
- How did they respond to Joseph?
- I wonder how Joseph felt throughout the story we told today. What feelings might he have had when his father gave him the special coat? How about how his brothers treated him?
- Have you had people not like you? How did they treat you?
- How does that make you feel?
- I wonder how it makes God feel when we hate one another.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From what God has shown me today, I will  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God, we open our hearts to hear Your dreams for us. Bless the children with dreams and visions of Yourself and Your ways.



# Joseph's Dreams and Colorful Coat (2)

Genesis 37:3-8

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

What kind of dreams do you have? Can you describe one that you have had?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Storybooks:** The story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook. See additional appendix page 106 on how the children can create one.

## BACKGROUND

When this next Bible story takes place, it was an honor to receive a special coat from the father. Most of the time it is given to the oldest son because he has a special place in the family. Things are different in today's story.

## BIBLE STORY

Since Joseph was born when his father Jacob was old, Jacob loved him more than his other sons. He made Joseph a special robe with many colors. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than he loved them, they hated their brother and could not speak to him politely.

One time Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. Joseph said, "Listen to the dream I had. We were in the field tying bundles of wheat together. My bundle stood up, and your bundles of wheat gathered around it and bowed down to it."

His brothers said, "Do you really think you will be king over us? Do you truly think you will rule over us?" His brothers hated him even more because of his dreams and what he had said.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as you were listening to the story?
- I wonder what it was like for Joseph to be treated the way he was by his brothers?
- I wonder what Joseph was thinking and feeling when he had those dreams?
- Do you have the same dream over and over again? I think through my dream God is telling me \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is a special present that you received from someone? How did it make you feel?
- What is the most interesting thing you heard today?
- From this story, in what ways can you relate to Joseph?
- How do you feel when someone treats you this way?
- How does God treat us? How does it make you feel?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- How might God want you to respond after hearing today's story?
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Has God been speaking dreams into your life? I pray that you have the courage to step into those dreams.



# Joseph Sold into Slavery (1)

## Genesis 37:18-28

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

When has someone been kind to you?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Objects:** Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.

### BACKGROUND

Because of his dream and the special treatment he is given, Joseph is hated by his brothers. One day, Jacob sends Joseph to see if his brothers are okay because they have gone far to shepherd the sheep.

### BIBLE STORY

Joseph's brothers saw him coming from far away. Before he reached them, they made a plan to kill him. They said to each other, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw his body into one of the wells. We can tell our father that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what will become of his dreams."

But Reuben heard their plan and saved Joseph, saying, "Let's not kill him. Don't spill any blood. Throw him into this well here in the desert, but don't hurt him!" Reuben planned to save Joseph later and send him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they pulled off his robe with many colors and threw him into the well. It was empty, and there was no water in it.

While Joseph was in the well, the brothers sat down to eat. When they looked up, they saw a group of people traveling to Egypt.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What was the hardest thing for you to hear in our story today?
- I wonder why the brothers were so mad at Joseph.
- If you were one of the brothers, what would you say and do? What if you were Joseph?
- Have you ever been bullied before or had someone pick on you? How did it make you feel? What did you do about it?
- Are there other children you know who are being bullied? How can you help them?
- I wonder what it was like for Joseph to be taken to a different country.
- What questions do you think Joseph had of God when all of this was happening?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS?

- This week I feel that God is teaching me \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and hide his death? Let's sell him to these people. Then we will not be guilty of killing our own brother. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood."

And the other brothers agreed. So when the people came by, the brothers took Joseph out of the well and sold him to them and they took him to Egypt.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Help me, God, to show Your love to others, even when they are unkind to me.



# Joseph Sold into Slavery (2)

## Genesis 37:18-28

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Has someone been mean to you or you played a trick on them? What happened?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Tingo Tingo Tango:** Have the children get into a circle. Pass an object around as you are saying "Tingo, Tingo, Tango." When you get to "Tango," whoever has the ball has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

### BACKGROUND

The relationship Joseph has with his brothers does not get any better. He is still hated because of the special treatment he is given by his father and the dreams that he has. Hatred can cause people to do very harmful things.

### BIBLE STORY

Joseph's brothers saw him coming from far away. Before he reached them, they made a plan to kill him. They said to each other, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw his body into one of the wells. We can tell our father that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what will become of his dreams."

But Reuben heard their plan and saved Joseph, saying, "Let's not kill him. Don't spill any blood. Throw him into this well here in the desert, but don't hurt him!" Reuben planned to save Joseph later and send him back to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they pulled off his robe with many colors and threw him into the well. It was empty, and there was no water in it.

While Joseph was in the well, the brothers sat down to eat. When they looked up, they saw a group of people traveling to Egypt.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like or not like in today's story?
- How was Joseph treated unfairly?
- What did you imagine as the story was being told?
- Imagine being Joseph down in the well. I wonder what he was thinking and feeling. If I were Joseph, I would be feeling \_\_\_\_\_.
- Have you ever seen someone treated unfairly before? What can you do when you see that happening?
- When I am feel like I am not being treated fairly, I wish that God would \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder why it seems that God does not help me right away when bad things happen.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From this story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can be part of God's story by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and hide his death? Let's sell him to these people. Then we will not be guilty of killing our own brother. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood."

And the other brothers agreed. So when the people came by, the brothers took Joseph out of the well and sold him to them And they took him to Egypt.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God, bless these children with courage and to be brave by standing up for what is right, even when others want to do wrong.



# Joseph Rules in Egypt (1)

## Genesis 41:37-42

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Can you describe a time when you felt like you were someone special?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Line Up:** Have the children get in line from shortest to tallest or youngest to oldest. The first person starts by sharing the first incident of the story. The second person tells the next thing that happened and so on till the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

Joseph ends up in prison because he was blamed for something he really did not do. After being there a couple years, the king has a dream which no one can figure out until they bring in Joseph. God tells Joseph what it means. Let's see how God can take something that was bad and turn it into something good.

### BIBLE STORY

This seemed like a very good idea to the king, and all his officers agreed. And the king asked them, "Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's spirit is truly in him!"

So the king said to Joseph, "God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are, so I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders, and only I will be greater than you."

Then the king said to Joseph, "Look! I have put you in charge of all the land of Egypt."

Then the king took off from his own finger his ring with the royal seal on it, and he put it on Joseph's finger. He gave Joseph fine linen clothes to wear, and he put a gold chain around Joseph's neck.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- In what ways was this story different than the other ones we heard about Joseph?
- I wonder what God intends to do by giving Joseph this high position.
- If you were Joseph, what would you be thinking and feeling right now? What might he be thinking about his brothers now?
- How might others know that God's Spirit is in you?
- What is a difficult situation you are in right now? How might God turn it into something good?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is something new that you learned today?
- What does God want you to do with what you have learned today?
- I know I am part of God's story because \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

When we obey and honor God before men, God honors us before men. Lord, bless these children with a greater desire to honor and obey You.



# Joseph Rules in Egypt (2)

## Genesis 41:37-42

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

When have you been given a significant or special job to do?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Rope Game:** Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say "STOP," the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

### BACKGROUND

Throughout all the things that happen to Joseph, we don't see him complaining or getting angry. His trust is in God. Joseph is able to tell the King what his dreams mean and because of that, he has been given a very special position.

### BIBLE STORY

This seemed like a very good idea to the king, and all his officers agreed. And the king asked them, "Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's spirit is truly in him!"

So the king said to Joseph, "God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are, so I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders, and only I will be greater than you."

Then the king said to Joseph, "Look! I have put you in charge of all the land of Egypt."

Then the king took off from his own finger his ring with the royal seal on it, and he put it on Joseph's finger. He gave Joseph fine linen clothes to wear, and he put a gold chain around Joseph's neck.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told today? What thoughts and feelings do you think Joseph had?
- I wonder if Joseph thought something bad would happen again.
- Do you find yourself wondering if something bad is going to happen to you or your family?
- Why do you think God put this story of Joseph in the Bible?
- If God could change something in your life right now, it would be \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From listening to the story this week, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Just as Joseph did his best in all circumstances, help us, God, that Your plans work in us, also. Bless each child with the understanding that You can work all things out for good that love You.



# Joseph Reveals Himself to his Family (1)

## Genesis 45:4-9

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Tell of a time when you were able to surprise someone.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Group Poster:** If you have the materials, have the children work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the children to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.

### BACKGROUND

Because of the famine, Jacob's family – the brothers that sold Joseph into slavery – have to come to Egypt to get food. Also, does anyone remember what the dreams were that Joseph had? (That his family would bow down to him.)

### BIBLE STORY

So Joseph said to them, "Come close to me." When the brothers came close to him, he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold as a slave to go to Egypt.

Now don't be worried or angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. No food has grown on the land for two years now, and there will be five more years without planting or harvest.

So God sent me here ahead of you to make sure you have some descendants left on earth and to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt. I am in charge of his palace, and I am the master of all the land of Egypt.

"So leave quickly and go to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all Egypt. Come down to me quickly.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- Can you remember the different stories of Joseph over the last several weeks? What choices did he make? What was his attitude throughout the stories? What other ways could he have responded?
- If I were Joseph, when I saw my brothers, I would have felt like \_\_\_\_\_.
- In what ways are you like Joseph?
- What did Joseph think about God?
- What do you think about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does God want you to do with what you learned today?
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God, show us how You have placed us to be a blessing to our family and friends.



# Joseph Reveals Himself to his Family (2)

## Genesis 45:4-9

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Have you ever lost something and then found it? How did it make you feel?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Ball Game:** Several different games can be played with a ball. Have the children get in a circle. When you say "GO," or start playing the music, the children pass the ball around the circle until you say "STOP" or stop the music. When that happens, the person who has the ball has to say the next part of the story. When you say "GO" or start the music, the children start passing the ball till you say "STOP."

### BACKGROUND

Many times God allows us to have dreams but what happens in them does not occur for a long time. Joseph's dreams are about to come true. It has been a long time and lots of things have happened between then and where we are in the story of Joseph's life.

### BIBLE STORY

So Joseph said to them, "Come close to me." When the brothers came close to him, he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold as a slave to go to Egypt.

Now don't be worried or angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. No food has grown on the land for two years now, and there will be five more years without planting or harvest.

So God sent me here ahead of you to make sure you have some descendants left on earth and to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt. I am in charge of his palace, and I am the master of all the land of Egypt.

"So leave quickly and go to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all Egypt. Come down to me quickly.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Could you imagine being in today's story?  
What did you see and hear?
- If you were Joseph, what feelings would you have had throughout the story?
- If you are able, go back through Joseph's life. What were the different things that happened to Joseph? What were Joseph's reactions and feelings during each of the stories?
- Have you ever been in situations like Joseph or at least felt like he might have?
- Where was God in each of the situations?
- I wonder where God is in your situation?
- What does this tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- This week, how might God want you to respond to things like Joseph did?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless us with patience to wait for the dreams You have placed in our hearts to come to life.



# Moses: God's People Worship a Golden Calf (1)

## Exodus 32:1-14

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What is something you have that you would be really upset if someone took it from you?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

Jacob's family live in Egypt for a long time and they become very prosperous. The king gets nervous and makes them slaves. The people cry out to God and he releases them from the bondage and they leave Egypt. God has some special plans He wants the people to follow and He has Moses come up a mountain to let him know what they are.

### BIBLE STORY

The people saw that a long time had passed and Moses had not come down from the mountain. So they gathered around Aaron and said, "Moses led us out of Egypt, but we don't know what has happened to him. Make us gods who will lead us."

Aaron said to the people, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, sons, and daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."

So all the people took their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from the people and formed it with a tool and made a statue of a calf. Then the people said, "Israel, these are your gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

When Aaron saw all this, he built an altar before the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a special feast to honor the LORD." The people got up early the next morning and offered whole burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story? What did you possibly not like?
- An idol is \_\_\_\_\_
- To worship means to “bend the knee” or make it the most important thing to you. I wonder why the people forgot all the amazing things the Lord did and made an idol to worship?
- What are some things that people today worship?
- What is the most important thing in your life? It makes God feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder how that makes God feel?
- What promise did Moses remind God of?
- A promise that God keeps today is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS?

- Something that God wants me to remember from today's Bible story is \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down from this mountain, because your people, the people you brought out of the land of Egypt, have ruined themselves.

They have quickly turned away from the things I commanded them to do. They have made for themselves a calf covered with gold, and they have worshiped it and offered sacrifices to it. They have said, ‘Israel, these are your gods who brought you out of Egypt.’”

The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen these people, and I know that they are very stubborn. So now do not stop me. I am so angry with them that I am going to destroy them. Then I will make you and your descendants a great nation.”

But Moses begged the LORD his God and said, “LORD, don't let your anger destroy your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with your great power and strength. Don't let the people of Egypt say, ‘The LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt for an evil purpose. He planned to kill them in the mountains and destroy them from the earth.’ So stop being angry, and don't destroy your people.

Remember the men who served you— Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. You promised with an oath to them and said, ‘I will make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. I will give your descendants all this land that I have promised them, and it will be theirs forever.’” So the LORD changed his mind and did not destroy the people as he had said he might.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God, bless these children with a desire to always please you. Remind us of Your great love and forgiveness when we sin.



# Moses: God's People Worship a Golden Calf (2)

## Exodus 32:1-14

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Describe a time when you got really upset with someone.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Whisperings:** Have the children sit in a circle. Whisper the first part of the story to one child. He or she will then whisper that phrase and the next part of the story to the next person and so on until the last person who will tell the story to the group.

### BACKGROUND

To worship something or someone means to bend the knee – to bow down to it and make it the most important thing in your life. God wants us to worship Him.

### BIBLE STORY

The people saw that a long time had passed and Moses had not come down from the mountain. So they gathered around Aaron and said, "Moses led us out of Egypt, but we don't know what has happened to him. Make us gods who will lead us."

Aaron said to the people, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, sons, and daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."

So all the people took their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from the people and formed it with a tool and made a statue of a calf. Then the people said, "Israel, these are your gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

When Aaron saw all this, he built an altar before the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a special feast to honor the LORD." The people got up early the next morning and offered whole burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- The part of today's story that I found most interesting is \_\_\_\_\_.
- What did you imagine as you were listening to the story?
- How did Moses respond when he heard the punishment that God was going to bring on the people for worshipping other idols?
- How would you have responded if you were Moses? What feelings and reactions did Moses have in the Bible Story today?
- What would you have done if you were there?
- What angers God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- What things does God command us today?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is something you learned today? What do you believe God wants you to do with what you learned?
- Who can you share this story with this week?
- I feel I am part of God's continuing story by \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down from this mountain, because your people, the people you brought out of the land of Egypt, have ruined themselves.

They have quickly turned away from the things I commanded them to do. They have made for themselves a calf covered with gold, and they have worshiped it and offered sacrifices to it. They have said, 'Israel, these are your gods who brought you out of Egypt.'"

The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen these people, and I know that they are very stubborn. So now do not stop me. I am so angry with them that I am going to destroy them. Then I will make you and your descendants a great nation."

But Moses begged the LORD his God and said, "LORD, don't let your anger destroy your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with your great power and strength. Don't let the people of Egypt say, 'The LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt for an evil purpose. He planned to kill them in the mountains and destroy them from the earth.' So stop being angry, and don't destroy your people.

Remember the men who served you— Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. You promised with an oath to them and said, 'I will make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. I will give your descendants all this land that I have promised them, and it will be theirs forever.'" So the LORD changed his mind and did not destroy the people as he had said he might.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless these children with the knowledge to reject the things of this world that compete for our affection.



# Moses: God's Tabernacle (1)

Exodus 35:4-11a, 20-22a, 30; 36:3-6a; 39:32, 43; 40:34 (summarized)

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

What is a special project that you worked on with someone else?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Musical Chairs:** Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

## BACKGROUND

God wants to be with His people. He gave instructions to Moses on how to build a place that could move around with them as they travel back to the Promised Land. God would make His presence be there with the people. He had very specific instructions on how the tabernacle should be built. Today we are going to tell the story as if Moses was telling it to us.

## BIBLE STORY

I have been with God and He gave me many instructions, including how to build a tabernacle – a home – for God Himself to dwell. Many things were needed.

So I gathered all of God's people and invited them to be a part in building this home for God. The craftsman could construct everything the Lord commanded. The women could sew the special clothes that the priests would need to wear. Everyone could give materials and the work necessary to complete God's home.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as you were listening to today's story?
- I wonder what it was like for Moses to build something for God.
- Something I am really good at is \_\_\_\_\_
- To be part of this church makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_.
- A way I can contribute to this church is by \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder how God would want me to build His Kingdom today. How about with your family? The church? Our class here at church?
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is stirring in your heart to give to God?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Everyone listened and then went home to prepare their gifts. For those that wanted to give, they brought to the Lord what had been stirred in their hearts to give. (Some were given specific jobs because of their wisdom and skills.)

Soon the craftsmen came to me saying: "We have too much! There is more than enough to do what God has asked of us! Tell the people to stop bringing their gifts and offerings!"

Then the day came when everything was complete! I inspected the building. Everything was completed just as God had commanded. A cloud came and covered the tabernacle. The Lord's glorious presence and His awesome glory filled God's dwelling place among the people.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Thank You, God, that You want to dwell with us. Help the children feel Your presence and want to be with You.



# Moses: God's Tabernacle (2)

Exodus 35:4-11a, 20-22a, 30; 36:3-6a; 39:32, 43; 40:34 (summarized)

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

What is something special you can do for our church or club?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Ball Game:** Several different games can be played with a ball. Have the children get in a circle. When you say "GO," or start playing the music, the children pass the ball around the circle until you say "STOP" or stop the music. When that happens, the person who has the ball has to say the next part of the story. When you say "GO" or start the music, the children start passing the ball till you say "STOP."

## BACKGROUND

God has a reason for everything He says and does. When He wants something done, He gives specific instructions. We may not understand why He asks people to do things a certain way, but that is when we trust that God knows best. God wants to be with His people and has given Moses the plans for a place where that can happen.

## BIBLE STORY

I have been with God and He gave me many instructions, including how to build a tabernacle – a home – for God Himself to dwell. Many things were needed.

So I gathered all of God's people and invited them to be a part in building this home for God. The craftsman could construct everything the Lord commanded. The women could sew the special clothes that the priests would need to wear. Everyone could give materials and the work necessary to complete God's home.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- If you had been there, what do you think it would have been like for God's presence to come down?
- How is God's presence with us today? What do we need to do to make His presence come down?
- If God were to inspect my life, what might He find?
- What I have to offer God is \_\_\_\_\_
- When I think of doing something great for God, I think of \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is stirring in your heart because of today's story?
- Who might you tell this story to next week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Everyone listened and then went home to prepare their gifts. For those that wanted to give, they brought to the Lord what had been stirred in their hearts to give. (Some were given specific jobs because of their wisdom and skills.)

Soon the craftsmen came to me saying: "We have too much! There is more than enough to do what God has asked of us! Tell the people to stop bringing their gifts and offerings!"

Then the day came when everything was complete! I inspected the building. Everything was completed just as God had commanded. A cloud came and covered the tabernacle. The Lord's glorious presence and His awesome glory filled God's dwelling place among the people. Soon the craftsmen came to me saying: "We have too much! There is more than enough to do what God has asked of us! Tell the people to stop bringing their gifts and offerings!"

Then the day came when everything was complete! I inspected the building. Everything was completed just as God had commanded. A cloud came and covered the tabernacle. The Lord's glorious presence and His awesome glory filled God's dwelling place among the people.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless these children with insight on how to follow Your instructions so they are able to cooperate with Your plans.



# God Chooses Gideon (1)

## Judges 6:11-24a\*

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Would you rather have more strength or be smarter? What would you do with it?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Comic Strip:** Give each child a sheet of paper. Have them fold it in half, then fold that half again and then a third time. When you open the paper, there should be 8 boxes on the paper. For each scene or action in the Bible story, have each child draw a simple picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story. Let the children retell the story to a partner by using their comic strips.

### BACKGROUND

There is a period of time when God has people called judges to lead the people. They helped people know what was right or wrong according to God. One of these judges was a man by the name of Gideon. A winepress was a big barrel where they would press the grapes to make wine in.

### BIBLE STORY

Gideon was separating some wheat from the chaff in a winepress to keep the wheat from their enemies, the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior!"

Then Gideon said, "Sir, if the LORD is with us, why are we having so much trouble? Where are the miracles our ancestors told us he did when the LORD brought them out of Egypt? But now he has left us and has handed us over to the Midianites."

The LORD turned to Gideon and said, "Go with your strength and save Israel from the Midianites. I am the one who is sending you."

But Gideon answered, "Lord, how can I save Israel? My family group is the weakest and I am the least important member of my family."

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What part of the story did you like best?
- Let's go through the story once again and see what emotions Gideon was feeling.
- How would you have responded if you knew you were talking to an angel of God or to Jesus Himself?
- What are you most fearful of?
- What is a situation you are facing right now where you need to hear the Lord say: "Don't be afraid."?
- In what ways do you worship the Lord?
- Gideon declared that the Lord is Peace. I declare that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does God want you to do with what you learned today? I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The LORD answered him, "I will be with you. It will seem as if the Midianites you are fighting are only one man."

Then Gideon said to the LORD, "If you are pleased with me, give me proof that it is really you talking with me. Please wait here until I come back to you. Let me bring my offering and set it in front of you."

And the LORD said, "I will wait until you return."

So Gideon went in and cooked some meat and bread and gave it to the angel under the oak tree.

The angel of God said to Gideon, "Put the meat and the bread on that rock over there. Then pour the broth on them." And Gideon did as he was told. The angel of the LORD touched the meat and the bread with the end of the stick that was in his hand. Then fire jumped up from the rock and completely burned up the meat and the bread! And the angel of the LORD disappeared! Then Gideon understood he had been talking to the angel of the LORD. So Gideon cried out, "Lord GOD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

But the LORD said to Gideon, "Calm down! Don't be afraid! You will not die!"

So Gideon built an altar there to worship the LORD and named it The LORD Is Peace.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God, all You ask is "Go with Your strength...I will be with you." Bless each one with courage.



# God Chooses Gideon (2)

## Judges 6:11-24a\*

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What is something that would be almost impossible to do?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Group Poster:** If you have the materials, have the children work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the children to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.

### BACKGROUND

The Midianites were people who kept attacking God's people. They kept stealing all their crops and animals. The Israelites became very poor because of them. They cried out to the Lord for help.

### BIBLE STORY

Gideon was separating some wheat from the chaff in a winepress to keep the wheat from their enemies, the Midianites. The angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon and said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior!"

Then Gideon said, "Sir, if the LORD is with us, why are we having so much trouble? Where are the miracles our ancestors told us he did when the LORD brought them out of Egypt? But now he has left us and has handed us over to the Midianites."

The LORD turned to Gideon and said, "Go with your strength and save Israel from the Midianites. I am the one who is sending you."

But Gideon answered, "Lord, how can I save Israel? My family group is the weakest and I am the least important member of my family."

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the Bible story was being told today?
- Could you imagine being Gideon? What would you have done in the different parts of the story?
- The angel called out to Gideon calling him a mighty warrior while he was hiding in the wine press. Be still for a moment and what name do you hear God calling you? The Lord is with you, \_\_\_\_\_.
- What excuses did Gideon give for not being able to do the work God has called him to?
- What excuses do you use for not moving forward for what God has for you?
- This story tells me that God \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What do you sense the Holy Spirit is saying to you in regards to this story?
- This week I want God \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The LORD answered him, "I will be with you. It will seem as if the Midianites you are fighting are only one man."

Then Gideon said to the LORD, "If you are pleased with me, give me proof that it is really you talking with me. Please wait here until I come back to you. Let me bring my offering and set it in front of you."

And the LORD said, "I will wait until you return."

So Gideon went in and cooked some meat and bread and gave it to the angel under the oak tree.

The angel of God said to Gideon, "Put the meat and the bread on that rock over there. Then pour the broth on them." And Gideon did as he was told. The angel of the LORD touched the meat and the bread with the end of the stick that was in his hand. Then fire jumped up from the rock and completely burned up the meat and the bread! And the angel of the LORD disappeared! Then Gideon understood he had been talking to the angel of the LORD. So Gideon cried out, "Lord GOD! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"

But the LORD said to Gideon, "Calm down! Don't be afraid! You will not die!"

So Gideon built an altar there to worship the LORD and named it The LORD Is Peace.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Thank You, Lord, for Your patience to let us ask You for understanding. I pray for wisdom for these children.



# Gideon Defeats the Enemy (1)

## Judges 7:4-7, 16-22

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What has been your greatest victory?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Objects:** Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.

### BACKGROUND

Gideon wanted to make sure that God wanted him to fight against the Midianites. He asked several times for the Lord to confirm that this is what He wanted. One thing Gideon asked is for the ground to be dry and his fleece, which was on the ground to be wet. Then the next night, he asked God to do the opposite – to make his fleece dry and the ground wet. Gideon was shown that he was the man God would use to defeat the Midianites.

### BIBLE STORY

Then the LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many men to defeat the Midianites. I don’t want the Israelites to brag that they saved themselves. So now, announce to the people, ‘Anyone who is afraid may go back home.’” So twenty-two thousand men returned home, but ten thousand remained.

Then the LORD said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take the men down to the water, and I will test them for you there. If I say, ‘This man will go with you, he will go. But if I say, ‘That one will not go with you,’ he will not go.”

So Gideon led the men down to the water. There the LORD said to him, “Separate them into those who drink water by lapping it up like a dog and those who bend down to drink”.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story? What parts of the story surprised you?
- What do you think God was trying to teach Gideon through the story?
- What choices did Gideon make? How about the men who joined his army? What other choices could they have made? What happened because of their choices?
- What would you have done if you were Gideon?
- From the story, what do you think is really important to God?
- I wonder why God put the story in the Bible.
- This story tells me that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of today's story, I believe God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- This week, I am going to tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

There were three hundred men who used their hands to bring water to their mouths, lapping it as a dog does. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

Then the LORD said to Gideon, "Using the three hundred men who lapped the water, I will save you and hand Midian over to you. Let all the others go home."

Gideon divided the three hundred men into three groups. He gave each man a trumpet and an empty jar with a burning torch inside. Gideon told the men, "Watch me and do what I do. When I get to the edge of the camp, do what I do. Surround the enemy camp. When I and everyone with me blow our trumpets, you blow your trumpets, too. Then shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon!'"

So Gideon and the one hundred men with him came to the edge of the enemy camp just after they had changed guards. It was during the middle watch of the night. Then Gideon and his men blew their trumpets and smashed their jars. All three groups of Gideon's men blew their trumpets and smashed their jars. They held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands. Then they shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Each of Gideon's men stayed in his place around the camp, but the Midianites began shouting and running to escape. When Gideon's three hundred men blew their trumpets, the Lord made all the Midianites fight each other with their swords! The enemy army ran away.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God, when big problems come, I pray that you will bless them with solutions and answers that show how much You love them and hear their prayers.



# Gideon Defeats the Enemy (2)

## Judges 7:4-7, 16-22

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What is something that just seems impossible for you to do today?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Partners:** Have the children get into smaller groups of 2 to 3 children. Each child will take a turn retelling the story. If someone gets stuck and can't remember the next part, the others in the group can help them.

### BACKGROUND

God had a plan for how Gideon would beat the Midianites. When God gives a plan, it is important to follow it. God had some very specific instructions on how He wanted Gideon to beat the Midianites.

### BIBLE STORY

Then the LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men to defeat the Midianites. I don't want the Israelites to brag that they saved themselves.

So now, announce to the people, 'Anyone who is afraid may go back home.'" So twenty-two thousand men returned home, but ten thousand remained.

Then the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take the men down to the water, and I will test them for you there. If I say, 'This man will go with you, he will go. But if I say, 'That one will not go with you,' he will not go."

So Gideon led the men down to the water. There the LORD said to him, "Separate them into those who drink water by lapping it up like a dog and those who bend down to drink".

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- If you could have been one of the characters in the story, who would you be?
- As we go through the story, Gideon was feeling \_\_\_\_\_.
- Is God asking you to do something that is really hard to do? I need courage from God to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Just as Gideon was part of God's Story, we are too. How do you see yourself being part of God's ongoing story?
- Gideon wanted the men to follow what he did which may have seemed quite unusual to fight a battle. How can people follow you as you follow Christ?
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What do you sense the Holy Spirit is asking you to do because of what you learned today? This week, I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

There were three hundred men who used their hands to bring water to their mouths, lapping it as a dog does. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

Then the LORD said to Gideon, "Using the three hundred men who lapped the water, I will save you and hand Midian over to you. Let all the others go home."

Gideon divided the three hundred men into three groups. He gave each man a trumpet and an empty jar with a burning torch inside. Gideon told the men, "Watch me and do what I do. When I get to the edge of the camp, do what I do. Surround the enemy camp. When I and everyone with me blow our trumpets, you blow your trumpets, too. Then shout, 'For the Lord and for Gideon!'"

So Gideon and the one hundred men with him came to the edge of the enemy camp just after they had changed guards. It was during the middle watch of the night. Then Gideon and his men blew their trumpets and smashed their jars. All three groups of Gideon's men blew their trumpets and smashed their jars. They held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands. Then they shouted, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Each of Gideon's men stayed in his place around the camp, but the Midianites began shouting and running to escape. When Gideon's three hundred men blew their trumpets, the Lord made all the Midianites fight each other with their swords! The enemy army ran away

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, help our hearts not fear problems, but trust You to work all things for good.



# Samson Loses his Strength (1)

## Judges 16:15-20

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

When all the kids at school want to do something and you don't really want to, what do you do?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.

### BACKGROUND

A judge is someone who says if something is right or wrong. God had some judges who helped to rule over the Israelites. Gideon was one. Samson was another. He was the strongest man to have ever lived. He would remain strong as long as he obeyed God in that he did not cut his hair. Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah. Delilah wants to turn Samson over to the Philistines, the enemy of Israel. So far, Samson won't tell her his secret.

### BIBLE STORY

Then Delilah said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you don't even trust me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me. You haven't told me the secret of your great strength." She kept bothering Samson about his secret day after day until he felt he was going to die!

So he told her everything. He said, "I have never had my hair cut, because I have been set apart to God as a Nazirite since I was born. If someone shaved my head, I would lose my strength and be as weak as any other man."

When Delilah saw that he had told her everything sincerely, she sent a message to the Philistine rulers.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as this story was being told? What feelings did it generate in you?
- What made Samson so strong? Who gave him the strength?
- I wonder why Delilah would want to do this to Samson? What does this say about her love for him?
- Have you had someone you care about trick you into doing something? How did that make you feel?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What choices did Samson make? What happened because of those choices?
- A decision I need to make where I can use God's help is \_\_\_\_\_.
- This story tells me that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From this story, I believe God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- This week I am going to tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

She said, "Come back one more time, because he has told me everything."

So the Philistine rulers came back to Delilah and brought the silver with them. Delilah got Samson to sleep, lying in her lap. Then she called in a man to shave off the seven braids of Samson's hair. In this way she began to make him weak, and his strength left him.

Then she said, "Samson, the Philistines are here!"

He woke up and thought, "I'll leave as I did before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless these children with a strong desire to trust and obey You so they receive all that You have for them..



# Samson Loses his Strength (2)

## Judges 16:15-20

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What is a temptation that you seem to face all the time?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Comic Strip:** Give each child a sheet of paper. Have them fold it in half, then fold that half again and then a third time. When you open the paper, there should be 8 boxes on the paper. For each scene or action in the Bible story, have each child draw a simple picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story. Let the children retell the story to a partner by using their comic strips.

### BACKGROUND

The Philistines are enemies to the Jewish people. Samson is a ruler and judge over Israel and has great strength given to him by God. Samson is in love with Delilah who sides with the Philistines to figure out how Samson keeps his strength. Samson has lied to her twice about why he is so strong and can keep defeating the Philistines. Delilah keeps pressuring him to tell her his secret.

### BIBLE STORY

Then Delilah said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you don't even trust me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me. You haven't told me the secret of your great strength." She kept bothering Samson about his secret day after day until he felt he was going to die!

So he told her everything. He said, "I have never had my hair cut, because I have been set apart to God as a Nazirite since I was born. If someone shaved my head, I would lose my strength and be as weak as any other man."

When Delilah saw that he had told her everything sincerely, she sent a message to the Philistine rulers.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Was there anything in particular that you liked or did not like about this story?
- I wonder why Samson finally told Delilah about his strength.
- I wonder how Samson felt after he realized he had been tricked by Delilah.
- In your school or community, how do people bully one another to get what they want? Have you been bullied before? Are there ways in which you might be bullying others? How does it make you feel?
- What are some ways in which you try to make someone like you more? How do you feel when they don't like or love you anymore than they did before?
- How does God want us to please Him?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- I believe God put this story in the Bible because \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you in regards to today's Bible Story?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

She said, "Come back one more time, because he has told me everything."

So the Philistine rulers came back to Delilah and brought the silver with them. Delilah got Samson to sleep, lying in her lap. Then she called in a man to shave off the seven braids of Samson's hair. In this way she began to make him weak, and his strength left him.

Then she said, "Samson, the Philistines are here!"

He woke up and thought, "I'll leave as I did before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Proverbs 3:5-6.



# Jonah Preaches Repentance (1)

## Jonah 3:1-6, 10

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

The best hiding place is ...

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

God selects people who will speak His word to people so they will stay close to Him. These people are called prophets. Many times they are telling people to repent, to turn their hearts back to God and to become obedient to Him. God called a man named Jonah to tell the people of a city called Nineveh to repent. Jonah was scared to go and he went the opposite way. Jonah eventually ends up in a belly of a big fish and decides to be obedient to what God is asking of him.

### BIBLE STORY

The LORD spoke his word to Jonah again and said, "Get up, go to the great city Nineveh, and preach to it what I tell you to say."

So Jonah obeyed the LORD and got up and went to Nineveh. It was a very large city; just to walk across it took a person three days. After Jonah had entered the city and walked for one day, he preached to the people, saying, "After forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed!"

The people of Nineveh believed God. They announced that they would fast for a while, and they put on rough cloth to show their sadness. All the people in the city did this, from the most important to the least important.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- I wonder why Jonah was afraid to tell people to turn their hearts to God.
- What choices did Jonah make? What happened because of the choices he made?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does the story tell us about God?
- To believe means to trust and follow with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. How are you doing that with God? How might God want you to believe in Him more?
- Has someone told you the Good News of Jesus and turning your heart back to God?
- Would you like to make that commitment if you have not done so already?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is the Holy Spirit speaking into your heart right now? What does He want you to do with what you have learned today?
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

When the king of Nineveh heard this news, he got up from his throne, took off his robe, and covered himself with rough cloth and sat in ashes to show how upset he was.

Jonah 3:10

When God saw what the people did, that they stopped doing evil, he changed his mind and did not do what he had warned. He did not punish them.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

God, we pray when You have a message for us to speak to others, bless us and give us courage.



# Jonah Preaches Repentance (2)

## Jonah 3:1-6, 10

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Has there ever been a time when you had to be rescued or you were lost? What were you feeling?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### RETELL

- ⑤ **Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Musical Chairs:** Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

The people in Nineveh are very mean. They do very harmful things to people. God wants them to repent and to turn their hearts to Him. He asks His prophet, Jonah, to go and tell them. Jonah disobeys and goes the opposite direction. Jonah ends up in the belly of a big fish where he decides that he needs to obey God. Then Jonah finds himself on the seashore and walks to Nineveh.

### BIBLE STORY

The LORD spoke his word to Jonah again and said, "Get up, go to the great city Nineveh, and preach to it what I tell you to say."

So Jonah obeyed the LORD and got up and went to Nineveh. It was a very large city; just to walk across it took a person three days. After Jonah had entered the city and walked for one day, he preached to the people, saying, "After forty days, Nineveh will be destroyed!"

The people of Nineveh believed God. They announced that they would fast for a while, and they put on rough cloth to show their sadness. All the people in the city did this, from the most important to the least important.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as you heard the Bible Story today?
- I wonder what the people were feeling throughout the story. I wonder what feelings Jonah had in the story.
- I wonder how God feels when we realize that we have been disobedient and we quit doing the wrong thing.
- One way I can trust God is by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Someone whom God wants me to talk to about His incredible love is \_\_\_\_\_. I will tell them \_\_\_\_\_.
- Put your body in a position that you think the King put himself in when he heard the news that Jonah brought from God.
- Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
- I can love God more by \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of what I learned today from this story, I am going to \_\_\_\_\_.
- How do you think God wants you to have a part in His Story?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

When the king of Nineveh heard this news, he got up from his throne, took off his robe, and covered himself with rough cloth and sat in ashes to show how upset he was.

Jonah 3:10

When God saw what the people did, that they stopped doing evil, he changed his mind and did not do what he had warned. He did not punish them.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

I pray, Lord, for these children to have a heart that tells others of Your great love.



# Elisha Brings a Boy Back to Life <sup>(1)</sup>

## 2 Kings 4:25-35

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Something silly I did once was ...

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Objects:** Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.

### BACKGROUND

One of God's prophets was named Elisha. Elisha would go back and forth through the land to give messages from God. An important woman from the city of Shunem invited Elisha to stay with her and her husband. They built a room on the top of their house so when Elisha would come by, he could stay with them. Elisha wanted to bless her and after finding out that the woman did not have any children, prayed that the Lord would bless her with a child. The next year she had a son. The boy grew up and one day got really sick and died. The lady went immediately to Elisha.

### BIBLE STORY

So she went to Elisha, the man of God, at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her coming from far away, he said to his servant, "Look, there's the Shunammite woman! Run to meet her and ask, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is the boy all right?'"

She answered, "Everything is all right." Then she came to Elisha at the hill and grabbed his feet. The servant came near to pull her away, but Elisha said to him, "Leave her alone. She's very upset, and the LORD has not told me about it. He has hidden it from me."

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you notice and imagine as the story was being told? What did you like best?
- What choices did the woman make in the story? What other choices could she have made?
- I wonder what Elisha had that God could use him in such a powerful way.
- When have you seen God at work in your life?
- In what ways did you trust Him?
- Is there a situation with your family where you really need God's help?
- Who in your life can you go to for Godly help?
- What does this Bible story tell us about God?
- What does it tell us about people?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does God want you to believe because of what you learned today?
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

She said, "Master, did I ask you for a son? Didn't I tell you not to lie to me?" Then Elisha said to his servant, "Get ready.

Take my walking stick in your hand and go quickly. If you meet anyone, don't say hello. If anyone greets you, don't respond. Lay my walking stick on the boy's face."

The boy's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you!" So Elisha got up and followed her.

The servant went on ahead and laid the walking stick on the boy's face, but the boy did not talk or move. Then the servant went back to meet Elisha. "The boy has not awakened," he said.

When Elisha came into the house, the boy was lying dead on his bed. Elisha entered the room and shut the door, so only he and the boy were in the room.

Then he prayed to the LORD. He went to the bed and lay on the boy, putting his mouth on the boy's mouth, his eyes on the boy's eyes, and his hands on the boy's hands. He stretched himself out on top of the boy. Soon the boy's skin became warm. Elisha turned away and walked around the room. Then he went back and put himself on the boy again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

God be with these children and help them to know who they should seek when things go wrong.



# Elisha Brings a Boy Back to Life (2)

## 2 Kings 4:25-35

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

If given the chance, something I would do over again is ...

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Storybooks:** The story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook. See additional appendix page 106 on how the children can create one.

### BACKGROUND

Elisha was a man who did great things for God because he listened and obeyed God. Elisha was a prophet, someone whom God would speak through and God allowed him to do miracles. One day a friend of Elisha came to him because her son had gotten very sick and died.

### BIBLE STORY

So she went to Elisha, the man of God, at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her coming from far away, he said to his servant, "Look, there's the Shunammite woman! Run to meet her and ask, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is the boy all right?'"

She answered, "Everything is all right." Then she came to Elisha at the hill and grabbed his feet. The servant came near to pull her away, but Elisha said to him, "Leave her alone. She's very upset, and the LORD has not told me about it. He has hidden it from me."

She said, "Master, did I ask you for a son? Didn't I tell you not to lie to me?" Then Elisha said to his servant, "Get ready."

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's Bible Story?
- Elisha said he would not leave the woman. Who is someone you can depend on who will never leave you?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.
- How might God use you to be part of His story just like he used the characters in today's story?
- Something I learned today about what it takes to follow God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The most interesting thing I heard today is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder what it was like for Elisha throughout our story today. One thing he felt was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of today's Bible story, I believe the Lord is telling me \_\_\_\_\_.
- This week I am going to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Take my walking stick in your hand and go quickly. If you meet anyone, don't say hello. If anyone greets you, don't respond. Lay my walking stick on the boy's face."

The boy's mother said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I won't leave you!" So Elisha got up and followed her.

The servant went on ahead and laid the walking stick on the boy's face, but the boy did not talk or move. Then the servant went back to meet Elisha. "The boy has not awakened," he said.

When Elisha came into the house, the boy was lying dead on his bed. Elisha entered the room and shut the door, so only he and the boy were in the room.

Then he prayed to the LORD. He went to the bed and lay on the boy, putting his mouth on the boy's mouth, his eyes on the boy's eyes, and his hands on the boy's hands. He stretched himself out on top of the boy. Soon the boy's skin became warm. Elisha turned away and walked around the room. Then he went back and put himself on the boy again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, I pray that the eyes of these children and their hearts are opened to see your mighty works.



# Jesus' Birth: Prophecy of Simeon (1)

Luke 2:25-34a\*

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Share a time when someone said something encouraging to you.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Group Poster:** If you have the materials, have the children work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the children to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.

## BACKGROUND

After 400 years of God not speaking to His people, Jesus is born in Bethlehem. There was an angel that came to a young woman named Mary and told her she would have a son and God would be the Father. The angel came to the man she was to marry and let him know that he was still to marry her. The baby is born and they name him Jesus. It is eight days after Jesus is born and Mary and Joseph bring him to the Temple where people begin speaking about Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY

In Jerusalem lived a man named Simeon who was a good man and godly. He was waiting for the time when God would take away Israel's sorrow, and the Holy Spirit was in him.

Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord.

The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do, Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

“Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant,  
die in peace as you said.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like in today's story?
- Who were the different people in the Bible Story? How did God use them?
- I wonder what Simeon was thinking and feeling when he first saw Jesus.
- Simeon was waiting for the Savior to come to take away the people's sadness and sorrow. Something that is making me sad is \_\_\_\_\_. How might Jesus help you with that sorrow?
- This story tells me that God is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is the Holy Spirit asking of you because of what you learned in the story today?
- I want to share this story with \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you prepared before all people.

It is a light for the non-Jewish people to see and an honor for your people, the Israelites.”

Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. Then Simeon blessed them

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Just like Simeon whom You showed Your promise, God, I pray that each one here will be blessed by Your promises.



# Jesus' Birth: Prophecy of Simeon (2)

Luke 2:25-34a\*

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

A special thing our family does at Christmas is ...

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Bible Story Relay:** Divide the children into teams. They run to a designated spot and back. When they return they have to shout out the next part of the story. Then the next person runs to the spot and back and shouts out the next part of the story till every team has retold the story.

## BACKGROUND

A prophet is someone who speaks for God. We have talked about some of God's prophets the last few weeks – Elisha and Jonah. God has sent His Son, Jesus, to the earth to show His love. He wants Mary and Joseph to know who this baby is they have just had. God send them a prophet to let them know why he came.

## BIBLE STORY

In Jerusalem lived a man named Simeon who was a good man and godly. He was waiting for the time when God would take away Israel's sorrow, and the Holy Spirit was in him.

Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Christ promised by the Lord.

The Spirit led Simeon to the Temple. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby Jesus to the Temple to do what the law said they must do, Simeon took the baby in his arms and thanked God:

“Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant,  
die in peace as you said.

With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared before all people.

It is a light for the non-Jewish people to see  
and an honor for your people, the Israelites.”

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told? What did you hear and see?
- I wonder what Mary and Joseph were thinking when Simeon took their baby in his arms?
- Do you remember what Simeon said about Jesus when he picked him up? I wonder what amazed Mary and Joseph about these things.
- What does God think about you? How do you feel about this?
- What do you think God says about you?
- What questions do you have?
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does God want you to do because of what you learned today?
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon had said about him. Then Simeon blessed them

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Help us, Lord, to remember that You love us so much, that You sent Your Son to earth for each of us.



# Jesus Chooses his First Disciples (1)

Luke 5:1-11

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Share a time when you were picked to be part of something.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Sound Effects & Motions:** Re-read the Bible story and come up with different sound effects and/or motions for words or actions that repeat throughout the story.

## BACKGROUND

In the time of Jesus, there were teachers called rabbis who instructed people how to follow God. Normally the young men would ask to become a disciple or a follower of the rabbi. It was very difficult to become a disciple. Jesus has now grown up and people are calling him Rabbi. He does something very different. Instead of the young men asking to be his disciples, Jesus selects and asks different men to become his followers.

## BIBLE STORY

One day while Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee, many people were pressing all around him to hear the word of God. Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake.

The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, and asked him to push off a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down and continued to teach the people from the boat.

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water, and put your nets in the water to catch some fish."

Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, and we caught nothing.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about the story?
- What feelings do you think Simon Peter had throughout the story? (Go through each scene in the story and discuss what he would have been thinking and feeling.)
- I wonder why Simon Peter said he should not be around Jesus. Why do you think Jesus told him not to be afraid?
- Is there something that you feel might be keeping you from Jesus and you don't want Him to be around you? How do you think Jesus feels about that? (This might be a good time to explain how to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus.)
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?
- The story tells me that people are \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- I am learning through this story that God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

But you say to put the nets in the water, so I will." When the fishermen did as Jesus told them, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break.

They called to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they were almost sinking.

When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!" He and the other fishermen were amazed at the many fish they caught, as were James and John, Simon's partners.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will fish for people." When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Father, I pray for these children to hear You when they are called to become disciples of Jesus.



# Jesus Chooses his First Disciples (2)

Luke 5:1-11

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

A good choice I have made is ...

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.

## BACKGROUND

Jesus has grown up and is about 30 years old. He has begun to teach the people about how to follow God and so people call him Rabbi. He has begun to perform different miracles. He is about to call certain men to be his disciples, his followers. They will learn to think and act just like him.

## BIBLE STORY

One day while Jesus was standing beside Lake Galilee, many people were pressing all around him to hear the word of God. Jesus saw two boats at the shore of the lake.

The fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Jesus got into one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, and asked him to push off a little from the land. Then Jesus sat down and continued to teach the people from the boat.

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat into deep water, and put your nets in the water to catch some fish."

Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, and we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water, so I will." When the fishermen did as Jesus told them, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told?
- Who were the characters in the story? What do you think it was like to be in this story? What kind of emotions did they have?
- What challenge did Jesus give Simon Peter? What challenge do you feel God is giving you right now?
- What do you think is really important to Jesus?
- Peter, James and John left everything to follow Jesus. What might be hard for you to give up to follow Jesus? What does it mean to you to follow Jesus?
- Do you remember when you first decided to follow Jesus? Who would like to share their story?
- This story tells me that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From this Bible Story, I believe the Holy Spirit is asking me to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

They called to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats so full that they were almost sinking.

When Simon Peter saw what had happened, he bowed down before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!" He and the other fishermen were amazed at the many fish they caught, as were James and John, Simon's partners.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on you will fish for people." When the men brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, You taught Your disciples to do mighty things for Your kingdom. I ask that You do the same with these children.



# Jesus Asks, “Are You Wise or Foolish?” (1)

## Matthew 7:24-29

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

Would you rather live up on a mountain or by a big lake? What kind of house would you build?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Sign Language:** Pretend as though you and the person you are trying to tell the story to are deaf. What would that look like?

### BACKGROUND

Most of the time, Jesus told stories to help the people know how to live for God. These stories were called parables and there was a lesson to be learned in the story. This is one parable that Jesus told about living wisely.

### BIBLE STORY

“Everyone who hears my words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and hit that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

Everyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and hit that house, and it fell with a big crash.”

When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching, because he did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told? What did you hear and see?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.
- Who remembers some of the things that God has asked you to obey this year? What are they and did you do them?
- What is easy about the things God asks of us? What is hard?
- I wonder how God helps us to obey the things He asks us to do.
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does it tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- This week, I believe God is asking me to \_\_\_\_\_.  
I will obey Him by \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, please fill the children with Your spirit so that they speak with authority to draw others to You.



# Jesus Asks, “Are You Wise or Foolish?” (2)

## Matthew 7:24-29

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What is a foolish mistake you have made?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Comic Strip:** Give each child a sheet of paper. Have them fold it in half, then fold that half again and then a third time. When you open the paper, there should be 8 boxes on the paper. For each scene or action in the Bible story, have each child draw a simple picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story. Let the children retell the story to a partner by using their comic strips.

### BACKGROUND

There is a time when Jesus went up to a mountain and began a long teaching to the people. It is often called the Sermon on the Mount. There are many different lessons here that Jesus is telling the people, and to us, on how to live for God. He taught many of these lessons in stories or parables.

### BIBLE STORY

“Everyone who hears my words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and hit that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

Everyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and hit that house, and it fell with a big crash.”

When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching, because he did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- What choices did the people make in the Bible Story? What happened because of the choices they made?
- How do you think the person who built his house on the rock felt when the storm was over?
- What choices have you made that honored God? What happened because of that? What were some consequences of choices you made that may not have been pleasing to God?
- What do you think is most important to God?
- God is most pleased with me when \_\_\_\_\_.
- Right now my "house," my life, is being built on the \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- I feel the Holy Spirit is asking me to \_\_\_\_\_ . Because of that, this week I will \_\_\_\_\_ .

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Bless each child Lord to know what we should use to build our lives. Open our hearts to see what is eternal and what is not.



# Jesus: The Story of the Good Samaritan (1)

Luke 10:25-37

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

What is something good that you have done for someone else?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.

## BACKGROUND

We find different people were trying to trick Jesus by asking him difficult questions. Jesus always had the right answer for them. Now during this time, the Samaritans and the Jewish people did not get along – they were enemies. A lawyer comes and asks a question to test Jesus. Let's see how Jesus responds.

## BIBLE STORY

Then an expert on the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?"

Jesus said, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind." Also, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Jesus said to him, "Your answer is right. Do this and you will live."

But the man, wanting to show the importance of his question, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered, "As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him lying there, almost dead. It happened that a priest was going down that road.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's Bible Story?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.
- Who were the different people in the story? What choices did they make? What happened because of their choices?
- How would you have felt if you were the man beaten on the side of the road?
- When have you felt alone and people just walked by and it seemed like they didn't care?
- Who has been a good neighbor to you?
- What does this story tell us about God and how He wants us to treat one another?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is the Holy Spirit prompting you because of today's story?
- This week I am going to tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

When he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Next, a Levite came there, and after he went over and looked at the man, he walked by on the other side of the road.

Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was. When he saw the man, he felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds, and bandaged them.

Then he put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he cared for him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.'

Then Jesus said, "Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers?"

The expert on the law answered, "The one who showed him mercy."

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, I pray that You pour Your love into each of these children so they might love You with every part of them.



# Jesus: The Story of the Good Samaritan (2)

Luke 10:25-37

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Describe a time when someone helped you or your family.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Rope Game:** Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say "STOP," the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

## BACKGROUND

The Samaritans and the Jewish people did not get along. Because of that, they would never help each other – in fact the Jewish people would not even step on the land that the Samaritans lived on. They would walk all the way around so they could avoid them.

## BIBLE STORY

Then an expert on the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?"

Jesus said, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind." Also, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Jesus said to him, "Your answer is right. Do this and you will live."

But the man, wanting to show the importance of his question, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered, "As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him lying there, almost dead. It happened that a priest was going down that road.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- As you were listening to today's story, what did you imagine? What did you hear? What did you see?
- I wonder how I can be a good neighbor to others.
- Someone I believe God wants me to help is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Are there people whom you have a hard time getting along with? How would God want you to be a good neighbor to them?
- What stops me from being a good neighbor is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder how all of us can be a good neighbor in our community.
- When I am a "good neighbor," I believe God feels \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of this Bible Story, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

When he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Next, a Levite came there, and after he went over and looked at the man, he walked by on the other side of the road.

Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was. When he saw the man, he felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds, and bandaged them.

Then he put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he cared for him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again."

Then Jesus said, "Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers?"

The expert on the law answered, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Then go and do what he did."

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

I speak Your blessing of love and compassion over each child here today, God, so that their actions honor You.



# Jesus Casts Out Demons (1)

## Mark 5:1-13

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

If I had all the strength I needed, I would ...

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

Jesus has been going around teaching and performing many miracles. The disciples are following him as are many other people. Just like there are angels who serve God, there are demons who serve the devil, the enemy of God, who is always trying to get people not to follow God. Though we can't see demons, they are very real.

### BIBLE STORY

When Jesus got out of the boat, instantly a man with an evil spirit came to him from the burial caves. This man lived in the caves, and no one could tie him up, not even with a chain.

Many times people had used chains to tie the man's hands and feet, but he always broke them off. No one was strong enough to control him. Day and night he would wander around the burial caves and on the hills, screaming and cutting himself with stones. While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him, ran to him, and fell down before him.

The man shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I command you in God's name not to torture me!" He said this because Jesus was saying to him, "You evil spirit, come out of the man."

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the Bible story was being told? What did you see? What did you hear?
- What seemed unusual in the story?
- Looking back at other Bible stories we have told, have there been other unusual things?
- Imagine being the man who had the evil spirits in him. What do you think it was like for him?
- If we are to be like Jesus, do you think we could do what Jesus did?
- I wonder what the man said to Jesus when the evil spirits left him.
- Can you think of a time when God did a miraculous thing for you or your family?
- Jesus, today our family needs a miracle because \_\_\_\_\_.
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What do you sense God wants you to do with what you have heard and learned today?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

He answered, “My name is Legion, because we are many spirits.” He begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on a hill near there. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us into the pigs; let us go into them.” So Jesus allowed them to do this.

The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of pigs—about two thousand of them—rushed down the hill into the lake and were drowned.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, please set us free from the things that cause us pain.



# Jesus Casts Out Demons (2)

## Mark 5:1-13

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

One of the most bizarre things I have seen is ...

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Line Up:** Have the children get in line from shortest to tallest or youngest to oldest. The first person starts by sharing the first incident of the story. The second person tells the next thing that happened and so on till the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

Jesus has been doing many miracles. He shows He has power over disease by healing people; He has power over the weather by calming a storm. Now He is about to show He has power and authority over angels, those that serve God, and demons, those that serve Satan. Satan, or sometimes called the devil, is the angel that rebelled against God and got sent out of Heaven.

### BIBLE STORY

When Jesus got out of the boat, instantly a man with an evil spirit came to him from the burial caves. This man lived in the caves, and no one could tie him up, not even with a chain.

Many times people had used chains to tie the man's hands and feet, but he always broke them off. No one was strong enough to control him. Day and night he would wander around the burial caves and on the hills, screaming and cutting himself with stones. While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him, ran to him, and fell down before him.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Review some of the miracles that God has done in the lessons you have taught.
- What did you like about today's Bible Story?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.
- I wonder how these things still happen today. (You might ask the children if they have had experiences where they are harassed by evil forces. It could be nightmares, feel like there are voices telling them evil things or a sense that something bad is in the room. Explain how they have authority over the evil spirits in the name of Jesus.) Practice with the children by saying in a firm voice: *In the name of Jesus I command all evil spirits to leave me alone and to get out.*
- This story tells me that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. Because of that, I want to trust Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- This week I am sensing God is wanting me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I need to tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The man shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I command you in God's name not to torture me!" He said this because Jesus was saying to him, "You evil spirit, come out of the man."

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He answered, "My name is Legion, because we are many spirits." He begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on a hill near there. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us into the pigs; let us go into them." So Jesus allowed them to do this.

The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of pigs—about two thousand of them—rushed down the hill into the lake and were drowned.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

God, we ask that You bless these children with Your power to help release others from the enemy's plans.



# Jesus Heals Ten Lepers (1)

Luke 17:11-19

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Share a time when someone did something very special for you.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Art Attack:** Use paper and coloring markers that are available. If the paper is big enough, have the children work on a poster that tells the story. If you only have single sheets, have each child draw a different part of the story or their favorite part of the story and share it with the class.

## BACKGROUND

Leprosy is a disease that is very harmful to people. It could be spread from one person to another. Because of that, people who had leprosy, called lepers, had to live away from everyone else. This way hopefully other people would not get it from them. People would have nothing to do with them.

## BIBLE STORY

While Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was going through the area between Samaria and Galilee. As he came into a small town, ten men who had a skin disease met him there. They did not come close to Jesus but called to him, "Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!"

When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

As the ten men were going, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice.

Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (And this man was a Samaritan.) Jesus said, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."

⑥ **DISCOVERY  
QUESTIONS**

- What did you like about this Bible story?
- What choices did the people make in the story? What happened because of their choices?
- How do you think the men felt when they were healed?
- I wonder why only 1 man came back to Jesus. I wonder what was stirring in his heart? What do you think he said? I wonder how Jesus was feeling about this.
- What would you want to say to Jesus now?
- What is something you want to thank Jesus for? How does He bless you?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

⑦ **PERSONAL RESPONSE  
QUESTIONS**

- Because of the Bible story, this week I am going to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Who can you share this story with?
- I can be part of God's story by \_\_\_\_\_.

---

**CLOSING BLESSING**

Holy Spirit, create in us a grateful heart toward God for all the things He has set us free from.



# Jesus Heals Ten Lepers (2)

Luke 17:11-19

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Share something you are very thankful for.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Bible Story Relay:** Divide the children into teams. They run to a designated spot and back. When they return they have to shout out the next part of the story. Then the next person runs to the spot and back and shouts out the next part of the story till every team has retold the story.

## BACKGROUND

Though leprosy can be cured today, in Jesus' time there was no cure. So the lepers would have to stay very far away from people and had to live in separate areas, called leper colonies. Hopefully the disease would not spread among the people. People would not associate with lepers.

## BIBLE STORY

While Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was going through the area between Samaria and Galilee. As he came into a small town, ten men who had a skin disease met him there. They did not come close to Jesus but called to him, "Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!"

When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

As the ten men were going, they were healed. When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus, praising God in a loud voice.

Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (And this man was a Samaritan.) Jesus said, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the Bible story was being told?
- What is something that God has done for you and your family?
- The blind men cried out to Jesus to have mercy on them. What is a situation you are facing where you want to cry out to God for His help and His mercy?
- How might God help you in this situation?
- Each of the men had choices to make in our Bible Story. What happened because of their choices? What choices are you needing to make where you can honor God?
- This story tells me that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- If we are to be like Jesus, how can you be like Him this week because of what you learned today?
- Who can you share this amazing story with this week?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

God, I pray You bless these children so they can bring Your love and healing to those in their community.



# Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler (1)

Mark 10:17-22

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

If you had a lot of money, what would you do with it?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## RETELL

- ⑤ **Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Musical Chairs:** Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

## BACKGROUND

Jesus has been going around Israel teaching people. People are excited about his teaching and are following him everywhere he goes so they can hear more. Some are wanting to become his disciple, a follower. Jesus would often ask a question to see if they could really surrender everything to become his follower.

## BIBLE STORY

As Jesus started to leave, a man ran to him and fell on his knees before Jesus. The man asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to have life forever?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commands: 'You must not murder anyone. You must not be guilty of adultery. You must not steal. You must not tell lies about your neighbor. You must not cheat. Honor your father and mother.'"

The man said, "Teacher, I have obeyed all these things since I was a boy."

Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, "There is one more thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

He was very sad to hear Jesus say this, and he left sorrowfully, because he was rich.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as you heard the Bible Story being told?
- Can you see the expressions on the man's face as he was talking with Jesus? What did you see?
- The story says that Jesus loved the man when he was talking to him. I wonder what expressions Jesus had in different parts of the story.
- What choices did the man have? What happened because of the choices he made?
- If Jesus asked you to give up something that was important to you, what might that be? I wonder what might happen if you chose to give that special thing up.
- Why do you follow Jesus?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What are you sensing in your heart that God is asking of you because of what you learned today?
- Who can you share this story with?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

God we are so thankful for Your Son Jesus. Bless each child with the strength and desire to follow you no matter what.



# Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler (2)

Mark 10:17-22

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Which would you rather have: more happiness or more money?

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Create a Song:** Create a song that will retell the Bible Story. You might use a song that the children are very familiar with and then change the words so it retells the Bible story. They can create an original song or possibly a rap song.

## BACKGROUND

What does it take to be a follower, a disciple, of Jesus? Many people just followed Jesus to listen to him and to see the miracles he performed. But were they willing to give up everything to really follow him? Did they believe what he had to say or did they just like to hear the good teaching and watch the miracles that Jesus performed?

## BIBLE STORY

As Jesus started to leave, a man ran to him and fell on his knees before Jesus. The man asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to have life forever?"

Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commands: 'You must not murder anyone. You must not be guilty of adultery. You must not steal. You must not tell lies about your neighbor. You must not cheat. Honor your father and mother.'"

The man said, "Teacher, I have obeyed all these things since I was a boy."

Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, "There is one more thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

He was very sad to hear Jesus say this, and he left sorrowfully, because he was rich.

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like or find difficult in today's story?
- The man in our story today had a lot of money. I wonder what he did with it all.
- If I had a lot of money, I would \_\_\_\_\_.
- What would you have done if you were the man in this story?
- What does this story tell us about what it takes to be a follower of Jesus?
- What do you have that you could share with someone to help them out?
- I wonder how that would make God feel.
- God is most pleased with me when \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- This week I believe God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Father God, we are grateful that Your plan for our lives is so simple, as asking Jesus to be our Savior.



# Jesus is Alive! (1)

## Luke 24:1-12

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

I get most excited when ...

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Drawing:** If you have the materials, have the children draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each child share their pictures with the rest of the group. If there are different scenes from the story, have the children put them in the order that they occurred.

### BACKGROUND

The religious leaders are jealous of Jesus and how people are listening and following him and not them anymore. On a Friday, they have Jesus killed on a cross and he is buried in a grave. The custom was to prepare and bring spices to anoint the body afterwards. Some women have prepared the spices and on Sunday are going to anoint his body. There is a surprise waiting for them.

### BIBLE STORY

Very early on the first day of the week, at dawn, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled away from the entrance of the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, two men in shining clothes suddenly stood beside them.

The women were very afraid and bowed their heads to the ground. The men said to them, "Why are you looking for a living person in this place for the dead? He is not here; he has risen from the dead. Do you remember what he told you in Galilee? He said the Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people, be crucified, and rise from the dead on the third day." Then the women remembered what Jesus had said.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's Bible Story?
- What miracles did you see happen in the story?
- Go through the story and have the children share the feelings the women must have had.
- If you were one of the people coming to the tomb and seeing it empty, what would you be feeling?
- What would you want to tell people about Jesus rising from the dead - that he is alive!
- This story tells me that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.
- This might be a good week to share the Gospel with the children and let them know about God wanting a personal relationship with each of them.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From this story, I believe God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.
- This week I am going to share this story with \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The women left the tomb and told all these things to the eleven apostles and the other followers.

The women told the apostles everything that had happened at the tomb. But they did not believe the women, because it sounded like nonsense.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Bending down and looking in, he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. Peter went away to his home, wondering about what had happened.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust, also, in Me." John 14:1. So be it! Bless each child with a heart that is not troubled but rejoices in You!



# Jesus is Alive! (2)

## Luke 24:1-12

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

I was really surprised when I found \_\_\_\_\_ because I thought it was lost.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Partners:** Have the children get into smaller groups of 2 to 3 children. Each child will take a turn retelling the story. If someone gets stuck and can't remember the next part, the others in the group can help them.

### BACKGROUND

The followers of Jesus are shocked and confused when Jesus is killed and buried. They thought he was going to save them from the Roman people who were treating them very badly. How could he do it when now he was dead and buried? Most of the disciples stayed together after this terrible day. What was going to happen next?

### BIBLE STORY

Very early on the first day of the week, at dawn, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.

They found the stone rolled away from the entrance of the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, two men in shining clothes suddenly stood beside them.

The women were very afraid and bowed their heads to the ground. The men said to them, "Why are you looking for a living person in this place for the dead? He is not here; he has risen from the dead. Do you remember what he told you in Galilee? He said the Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people, be crucified, and rise from the dead on the third day." Then the women remembered what Jesus had said.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told? What did you see and hear?
- Imagine that you are coming up to the tomb and you see the stone rolled away. Your first thought is \_\_\_\_\_. What would you be feeling?
- God put this story in the Bible because He wanted people to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I wonder what angels look like. How would you respond if one showed up in class and began talking to us?
- Peter wondered what had happened when he saw the empty tomb. What are you wondering about?
- What questions do you have going through your mind?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is the Holy Spirit asking of you because of what you learned today?
- I can't keep this Good News inside me. I want to share this story with \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The women left the tomb and told all these things to the eleven apostles and the other followers.

The women told the apostles everything that had happened at the tomb. But they did not believe the women, because it sounded like nonsense.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb. Bending down and looking in, he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. Peter went away to his home, wondering about what had happened.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28. Lord, bless each person here to see how you are working everything out for good because You are a good God.



# Philip Tells the Ethiopian the Good News of Jesus

(1)

Acts 8:26-39

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

If someone were to tell me \_\_\_\_\_, it would be the best news I could hear.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Group Poster:** If you have the materials, have the children work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the children to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.

## BACKGROUND

God wants everyone to hear the Good News of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. He is the living example of God's love for us. There are different characters in today's story. Let me tell you who some of them are:

- Philip is someone who loves and is a follower of Jesus.
- Angels are helpers of God and one has an important message for Philip.

## BIBLE STORY

An important officer in the service of the queen of Ethiopia had gone to Jerusalem to worship. Now, as he was on his way home, he was sitting in his chariot reading from the Book of Isaiah, the prophet.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." So when Philip ran toward the chariot, he heard the man reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

He answered, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him. The portion of Scripture he was reading was this:

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you like about today's story?
- When have there been times when you have not understood something in the Bible? Who might be able to answer your questions?
- What questions, or things are you pondering, do you have about God after listening to today's story?
- If you had to tell someone the Good News about Jesus, what would you tell them?
- How does it make you feel thinking of telling other people about Jesus?
- The story tells us that the Holy Spirit prompted Phillip to talk with the Ethiopian man. Is there someone you feel prompted to tell the Good News? What emotions does that bring up? I wonder how Phillip felt going to a stranger to tell him about Jesus. I wonder how Phillip felt at the end of our story.
- I wonder why God put this story in His Bible.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What is God's Spirit doing in your heart and asking you to do?
- This week, I want to share this story with \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

“He was like a sheep being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a lamb is quiet while its wool is being cut; he never opened his mouth.

He was shamed and was treated unfairly. He died without children to continue his family. His life on earth has ended.” *Isaiah 53:7–8*

The officer said to Philip, “Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?” Philip began to speak, and starting with this same Scripture, he told the man the Good News about Jesus. While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water.

The officer said, “Look, here is water. What is stopping me from being baptized?” [Philip answered, “If you believe with all your heart, you can.” The officer said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the officer never saw him again. And the officer continued on his way home, full of joy.

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## CLOSING BLESSING

Father God, I pray that You bless these children with open ears so when You speak these children will hear Your message.



# Philip Tells the Ethiopian the Good News of Jesus

(2)

Acts 8:26-39

## ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

## ② OPENING

Some really good news I got one time was when someone told me \_\_\_\_\_.

## ③ BACKGROUND →

## ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

## ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Tingo Tingo Tango:** Have the children get into a circle. Pass an object around as you are saying "Tingo, Tingo, Tango." When you get to "Tango," whoever has the ball has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

## BACKGROUND

Philip is being obedient to what the angel of God tells him. He overhears a man reading from a book in the Bible that tells about Jesus before Jesus has even arrived on the earth. It is a prophetic book in which God speaks to His people through a prophet to let them know what is going to happen. Philip talks to this important man from Ethiopia who, after hearing and believing in Jesus, can now share the Good News with people when he gets home.

## BIBLE STORY

An important officer in the service of the queen of Ethiopia had gone to Jerusalem to worship. Now, as he was on his way home, he was sitting in his chariot reading from the Book of Isaiah, the prophet.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." So when Philip ran toward the chariot, he heard the man reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

He answered, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?" Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him. The portion of Scripture he was reading was this:

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as you heard our Bible story being told today?
- Who were the different people in the story? What choices did they make? What happened because of their choices?
- Share the Gospel message to the children. See if they can retell that message to a partner. Appropriately, see which children have become Christ followers and who wants to make that decision this day.
- The Bible also tells us to be baptized after becoming a Christ follower. Explain in culturally appropriate terms what baptism is. If appropriate, talk with parents about children who are Christ followers but have not been baptized and set up a time for a baptism.
- What questions do you have after hearing this Bible story?
- This story tells me that God \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- After listening and discussing this Bible Story, I believe God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

“He was like a sheep being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a lamb is quiet while its wool is being cut; he never opened his mouth. He was shamed and was treated unfairly. He died without children to continue his family. His life on earth has ended.” *Isaiah 53:7–8*

The officer said to Philip, “Please tell me, who is the prophet talking about—himself or someone else?” Philip began to speak, and starting with this same Scripture, he told the man the Good News about Jesus. While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water.

The officer said, “Look, here is water. What is stopping me from being baptized?” [Philip answered, “If you believe with all your heart, you can.” The officer said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the officer never saw him again. And the officer continued on his way home, full of joy.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Holy Spirit, bring Your message of good news and fill our hearts with the love of Jesus. I pray that these children will speak into someone’s life.



# God's People Need to Wear His Armor (1)

## Ephesians 6:10-18

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

The biggest fight I ever got in was \_\_\_\_\_.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Storybooks:** The story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook. See additional appendix page 106 on how the children can create one.

### BACKGROUND

The highest angel, Lucifer, rebelled against God and got removed from Heaven. There were angels who rebelled with him and so they got kicked out of heaven too – they are called demons. They are always looking to seek and destroy the good that God has created. They don't want anyone to believe in God but instead, they want people to rebel against Him just like they did. They try to make us believe in lies about God and bring destruction to God's goodness. We are in a battle between following and not following God. Because we are in a battle, we need to wear armor to protect ourselves. What kind of armor is it?

### BIBLE STORY

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks.

Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. That is why you need to put on God's full armor.

Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Who can remember the different parts of the armor? What is each piece of armor used for?
- What is the battle that is going on? Every battle has good and evil. Who are on the different sides of the battle in today's lesson?
- What are the different tricks the devil plays on you? How does that make you feel when the "fight" is on? What piece of armor will you mostly need? What else do we have to fight this battle against the devil?
- How can we stand strong?
- Who do you know that is going through a battle right now that needs to know about this armor?
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of what I learned this week, I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- God wants me to be part of His Story by \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist and the protection of right living on your chest.

On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong.

And also use the shield of faith with which you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

God, create a Warrior's heart, brave and true, to serve You, in each of us.



# God's People Need to Wear His Armor (2)

## Ephesians 6:10-18

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

I feel safe when \_\_\_\_\_.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Story Cards:** Write or draw the different segments of the Bible story on separate sheets of paper. Give them to different children in the class and have the children get in order of the story line. You could also give them a certain amount of time to do it in or write out 2 or more copies of the story line and have several groups of children trying to be the first group to finish.

### BACKGROUND

There is good and there is evil in this world. God is always good. But there is an enemy of God who is always doing evil and his name is Satan. The angels who follow Satan are called demons and they try to make us believe lies about God and not to follow Him. This is a battle we must fight. God has given us plans on how to fight this battle and the armor or battle gear we must wear.

### BIBLE STORY

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks.

Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. That is why you need to put on God's full armor.

Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong.

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Review again the different pieces of armor. What is each one used for?
- The pieces protect different parts of our physical body, but I wonder what they are protecting. Example: helmet is protecting our thoughts, breastplate protects our heart, and so on.)
- In what ways does the enemy try to get us to not follow God?  
Prayer is talking with God: God talks with us, we get to talk with God. What are some prayers you say to God? Praying is part of the battle we fight against the devil. What prayers do you need in this fight? Who do you know needs prayer because the devil is attacking them?
- Through our lessons this year we have learned a lot about God. What might God want to say to us today?
- Who are some people whom we can be praying for? Spend some time in prayer.
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What do you sense the Holy Spirit is asking of you because of what you learned today?
- Who will you be praying for this week?
- Who can you ask to be praying for you?

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist and the protection of right living on your chest.

On your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong.

And also use the shield of faith with which you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. Accept God's salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times with all kinds of prayers, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Holy Spirit, I pray You bless these children with the instructions needed to use the armor in protecting themselves in the battles they fight against the enemy who wants them to not believe in Jesus.



# The Apostle John's Dream about Heaven (1)

## Revelation 21:1-7

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

What is the best place you have ever been to?

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.

### BACKGROUND

Heaven is where God has His throne and where people will go if they are believers and followers of Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus is preparing a place there for us. By being followers of Jesus here on the earth, we can give people a glimpse of what Heaven will be like – a place where we will see Jesus face to face. It will be a place where we are free to worship Jesus. He is on His throne because He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

### BIBLE STORY

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and there was no sea anymore.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Now God's presence is with people, and he will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain, because all the old ways are gone."

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as this story was being told? What did you see? What did you hear? What did it sound like?
- When you think of Heaven, what do you imagine? (If available, play the song, *I Can Only Imagine* by Mercy Me.)
- How do you think God will feel when His children are with Him in Heaven?
- What feelings will you have being in Heaven? What do you think it will be like to have God wipe away all your tears and sadness?
- Who do you think will be in Heaven?
- I wonder what it means to “win the victory.”
- What does this story tell us about God?

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- After listening to the Bible Story today, what excites you the most? Because of that, this week I will \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The One who was sitting on the throne said, “Look! I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted.”

The One on the throne said to me, “It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give free water from the spring of the water of life to anyone who is thirsty.

Those who win the victory will receive this, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Father God, thank You that You gave John a view into the future of such hope and beauty. I pray You bless each child with a dream about You and Your Kingdom.



# The Apostle John's Dream about Heaven (2)

## Revelation 21:1-7

### ① REVIEW

- See if any of the children can retell previous stories told.
- Who retold any previous stories to someone else? Let them share what happened.
- How did you respond to the Holy Spirit's leading from previous weeks?

### ② OPENING

If I could make this world a better place, I would \_\_\_\_\_.

### ③ BACKGROUND →

### ④ TELL BIBLE STORY →

### ⑤ RETELL

**Story Review:** Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

**Bible Story Relay:** Divide the children into teams. They run to a designated spot and back. When they return they have to shout out the next part of the story. Then the next person runs to the spot and back and shouts out the next part of the story till every team has retold the story.

### BACKGROUND

There were many bad and destructive things that happened when Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. We started reading about those things in Genesis, the first book in the Bible. But what will it be like when there is no more sin? How will it be different? The end of the Bible, the book of Revelation, helps us to begin imagining what it will be like to be with God without sin.

### BIBLE STORY

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and there was no sea anymore.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Now God's presence is with people, and he will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain, because all the old ways are gone."

(story continues on next page)

## ⑥ DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What do you like most about today's story?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.
- When God says everything will be new, what does that mean to you? One thing that I am glad will be new is \_\_\_\_\_.
- One name God uses for Himself that we often hear at Christmas is Emmanuel. It means that God is with us. I am really glad God is with me when \_\_\_\_\_.
- Being a child of God means to me that \_\_\_\_\_.
- What questions do you still have?
- What I love most about God is \_\_\_\_\_.

## ⑦ PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Because of what I have learned this week, I will \_\_\_\_\_.
- This week I am going to tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

## BIBLE STORY (Continued)

The One who was sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted."

The One on the throne said to me, "It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give free water from the spring of the water of life to anyone who is thirsty."

Those who win the victory will receive this, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

---

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, just like You used John for Your kingdom, use each one here today, also.

# Retell Activities and Descriptions

***It is important to retell the Bible story after it's been told. So Children are engaged in the story and to help them in learning it well enough, so they can retell it to someone else.***

The retell activities should be fun and engage the children in the story. Listed below are various ways to retell a Bible story which engages children in different ways. One way not listed, if the children have Bibles, is to have them open them and re-read the story. This can also be done by someone reading the story and the leader asking sequential questions which everyone then answers by looking in the Bible.

## ■ ART

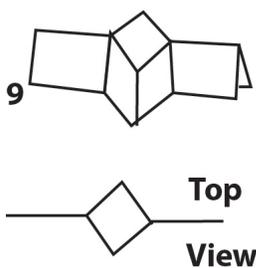
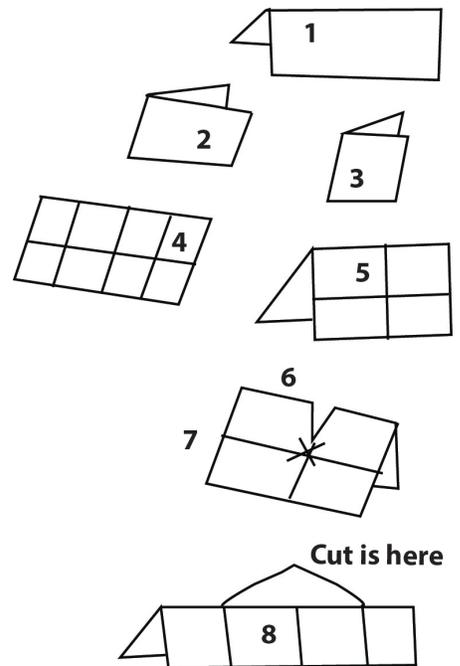
- **Drawing:** If you have the materials, have the children draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each child share their pictures with the rest of the group. If there are different scenes from the story, have the children put them in the order that they occurred.
- **Group Poster:** If you have the materials, have the children work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the children to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.
- **Story Parts:** Give each child a certain scene of the story for them to draw. Have the children put the story in order by the drawings that have been made. The children can then retell the story by using the pictures they have drawn.
- **Art Attack:** Use paper and coloring markers that are available. If the paper is big enough, have the children work on a poster that tells the story. If you only have single sheets, have each child draw a different part of the story or their favorite part of the story and share it with the class.
- **Comic Strip:** Give each child a sheet of paper. Have them fold it in half, then fold that half again and then a third time. When you open the paper, there should be 8 boxes on the paper. For each scene or action in the Bible story, have each child draw a simple picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story. Let the children retell the story to a partner by using their comic strips.
- **Billboard:** Design a roadside billboard of the Bible story or how you see yourself connecting with it.
- **Pictionary:** Different parts of the story are randomly given out and each person needs to draw what they have been given until someone guesses what it is.
- **Graffiti Wall:** As a group, have the children write words or draw pictures which tell the story.
- **Tee Shirt Design:** Have each child design the front of a tee shirt that could tell the major parts of the story.
- **Logo Design:** If there could be just one picture, with no words, that would best tell the Bible story, what would that be? Have the children draw it. You can use this simple picture as a way of reviewing the different Bible stories in weeks to come.
- **Book Cover Design:** Children design and draw their own book cover with words and pictures that best capture the different parts of the Bible story.
- **Storybooks:** The story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook. See additional appendix page on how the children can create one.

# How to Make Blank Books for Writing

*Here's a great technique for creating a blank book. Work with your child to make these folded little books. Once children master the fold-a-book technique, they will eagerly use it to create blank books (any size) for their own writing and illustrating purposes.*

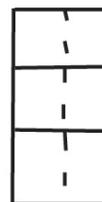
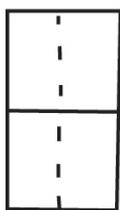
## Fold-A-Book Instructions

1. Fold a rectangular sheet of paper in half lengthwise.  
(We sometimes call this the "hot dog" or horizontal fold.)
2. Fold in half again, as for book. Crease tightly.
3. Fold in half again. Crease tightly.
4. Unfold the sheet – hold it vertically (up and down)
5. Fold in half width-wise. (The "hamburger" fold.)
6. Cut along the center crease from the folded edge to the X.
7. Open the sheet again.
8. Return to the original lengthwise fold (as in #1).
9. Push the end sections together, and it will fold itself into the child-size Little Book. Four sections are formed.



## Cut-And-Staple Book Instructions

A sheet (or sheets) of paper are cut in half or thirds and stapled to form an 8, 12, or 16-page child-size Little Book.



# Retell Activities and Descriptions

## ■ DRAMA / ARTS

- **Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.
- **Retell** through a character's eyes.
- **Create a Song:** Create a song that will retell the Bible Story. You might use a song that the children are very familiar with and then change the words so it retells the Bible story. They can create an original song or possibly a rap song.
- **Partners:** Have the children get into smaller groups of 2 to 3 children. Each child will take a turn retelling the story. If someone gets stuck and can't remember the next part, the others in the group can help them.
- **Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.
- **Pantomime:** Divide the group into several smaller groups. Have one group act out the first part of the story without using words. The other groups have to say what is happening. The next group has to act out the next part of the story and the remaining groups tell what is happening. Continue till the story is retold. You may remind the group acting out the story if they don't remember what the next part is.
- **Puppets:** Create simple puppets from things like socks, paper plates, paper cups, sticks, etc and retell the story using these characters.
- **Objects:** Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.
- **Wire & Clay:** Use these or other available craft items to build and retell the Bible story.
- **Charades:** Without using words, the kids act out the different scenes while the audience has to guess which part of the story they are doing.
- **Sound Effects & Motions:** Re-read the Bible story and come up with different sound effects and/or motions for words or actions that repeat throughout the story.
- **Object(s) (ie: scarf, rope),** See how many times they can use the object to tell the story. Another way is to give each group 3 different objects and they have to use them in retelling the story.
- **Motions:** Use different motions to illustrate each segment of the story. You can assign one motion to each child or small group and they need to demonstrate their motion in the order in which it comes in the story.
- **Human Slide Show:** Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two children will can hold it up and then drop it when you tell them. Pick several children to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the children get into a position as though there were a picture or painting of that part of the story. They are to remain perfectly still and then have the cloth dropped so the rest of the group can see it. Each scene changes as you tell the story.
- **Dance:** Retell the story through a dance with or without music and words.
- **Top Ten:** Have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.
- **Journals:** The children are given the opportunity to just quietly sit and journal what was in the story and what it meant to them.

# Retell Activities and Descriptions

## ■ GAMES I

- **Ball Game:** Several different games can be played with a ball. Have the children get in a circle. When you say “GO,” or start playing the music, the children pass the ball around the circle until you say “STOP” or stop the music. When that happens, the person who has the ball has to say the next part of the story. When you say “GO” or start the music, the children start passing the ball till you say “STOP.”
- **Rope Game:** Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say “STOP,” the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.
- **Movers & Shakers:** Tossing a ball from one person to another while the music is playing. When the music stops, the person holding the ball (or knot in the rope if you are using a long rope that the child are holding and moving around in a circle) has to say the next part of the verse in the way you specify. Some examples could be:
  - At a normal pace
  - In fast forward while jogging in place
  - In a whisper while tiptoeing
  - Shouting while marching
  - In slow motion while jogging in slow motion
  - In a normal voice while walking backward
- **Musical Chairs:** Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.
- **Timing the Retell:** See if the group can retell the story in a specified amount of time.
- **Tingo Tingo Tango:** Have the children get into a circle. Pass an object around as you are saying “Tingo, Tingo, Tango.” When you get to “Tango,” whoever has the ball has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.
- **Line Up:** Have the children get in line from shortest to tallest or youngest to oldest. The first person starts by sharing the first incident of the story. The second person tells the next thing that happened and so on till the story is retold.
- **Balloon or Ball Toss:** Have the children get into circles of about 8. Have them toss the balloon or ball from one to another either as the music is going or when you have said, “GO.” When you stop the music or say “STOP,” whoever has the balloon has to say the next part of the story. For some added fun, try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it.
- **Balloon Pop “Surprise”:** You will need enough balloons per group as there are segments to the story. Before doing this activity, write out the different segments of the Bible story on slips of paper. Put one slip in each of the balloons. Blow up the balloon and tie it off. Have the children get in a circle with the balloons in the center. When you tell them, have the children sit on a balloon until it pops. The children then take the slip of paper in the balloon and put them in order of the storyline.

# Retell Activities and Descriptions

## ■ GAMES II

- **Whisperings:** Have the children sit in a circle. Whisper the first part of the story to one child. He or she will then whisper that phrase and the next part of the story to the next person and so on until the last person who will tell the story to the group.
- **Dice:** Each small group has one dice. The first person rolls the dice. If they get a “1” or “2” they can pass the dice to the next person and do not have to tell any part of the story. If they roll a “3” or “4” they have to tell the next part of the story. If they roll a “5” or “6” the dice goes back in reverse to the person who just had the dice and they have to tell the next part of the story.
- **Story Cards:** Write or draw the different segments of the Bible story on separate sheets of paper. Give them to different children in the class and have the children get in order of the story line. You could also give them a certain amount of time to do it in or write out 2 or more copies of the story line and have several groups of children trying to be the first group to finish.
- **Sign Language:** Pretend as though you and the person you are trying to tell the story to are deaf. What would that look like?
- **Bible Story Relay:** Divide the children into teams. They run to a designated spot and back. When they return they have to shout out the next part of the story. Then the next person runs to the spot and back and shouts out the next part of the story till every team has retold the story.
- **Graffiti Style:** Write the different Bible story segments on the board in graffiti style (phrases jumbled). Ask one child to find the first phrase and draw an arrow to the next part of the story repeating both phrases. The next child draws an arrow connecting the second phrase to the third one and repeats all three. Continue until the Bible story is retold.
- **Hide and Seek:** Write phrases of the Bible Story on cards or strips of paper. Place them around the room. Send the children out to find them and as they do, they should gather in the front of the room and place themselves in the proper order. Have someone read and retell the story. You could also do this activity by not hiding the cards but randomly give the cards out to the children and have them get in the right order to read the story.
- **Story Chase:** Write each part of the story on small cards. Randomly tape one card on the back of each child. Have the children assemble the story on their own. They should line up so that each child can see the phrase in front of them. Have the children retell the story by reading the card on the person in front of them.
- **Who’s Got the Star?** Make a star out of construction paper. Have the children sit in chairs in a circle. Instruct everyone to close their eyes. Place the star under someone’s chair. When you have them open their eyes, whoever has the star under them can say the first part of the story. If the child can say it, have everyone close their eyes again and now he or she gets to place the star under someone else’s chair. The activity is played until the story is told. Variation: A coin or other token could be used in the place of a star.

# DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## ◆ Discover Questions - Head (Facts)

*My goal is to understand the content of the story.  
What does the story say? What happened in the story?  
I want to KNOW God through His Word.*



- 
- a. What were you imagining as the story was being told? How did it make you feel?
  - b. Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell as the story was told?
  - c. What stood out to you in the story?
  - d. What was God/Jesus teaching them in this story?
  - e. Where in previous stories have we seen God do this?
  - f. Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories? What connections did you make?
  - g. Which of our other stories talks about \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - h. Was there anything that was difficult or hard to understand?
  - i. How did the story describe God's/Jesus's relationship with people?
  - j. What did we learn about \_\_\_\_\_'s relationship with God/Jesus from this story?
  - k. How does God/Jesus respond to the people in the story? What does this show us?
  - l. How did God/Jesus respond when ... ?
  - m. How did people respond ... ?
  - n. How did God/Jesus ... ?
  - o. What was God/Jesus teaching or showing them in this event?
  - p. What is something you learned today about ...
    - God?
    - Jesus?
    - This story?
    - What it means to follow Jesus?
    - Yourself?
  - q. What have we learned about what God/Jesus is like?
  - r. What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made?
  - s. What changes in beliefs, behaviors, or attitudes did someone experience in the story?
  - t. What did you notice about God/Jesus/ \_\_\_\_\_ from the story?
  - u. What was \_\_\_\_\_ risking in order to follow God/Jesus?
  - v. How are the characters alike or different in the story?
  - w. In what ways is our situation like ... ?
-

# DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## ◆ Discover Questions - Heart (Feelings)

*My goal is to connect emotionally and spiritually with the story, allowing the story to penetrate my heart. How does the story relate to my life?*

*Why is the story important? Why is it important to me?  
I want to LOVE God through His Word.*



- 
- a. What did you like about the story? Is there anything you didn't like?
  - b. What stood out to you in the story?
  - c. What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
  - d. What feelings did you have as you heard the story? How would you have felt if ... ?
  - e. What did you imagine as you were listening to the story?
  - f. What did you wonder about when the story was being told?
    - What kinds of emotions do you think ... ?
    - What feelings do you think motivated ... ?
    - What do you think it was like ... ?
  - g. What do you think was going on in \_\_\_\_\_'s heart and mind in this story?
  - h. What surprised you or amazed you about today's story?
  - i. Which character in today's story do you most relate to?
  - j. What do you feel is really important to God/Jesus? To the character?
  - k. In what ways are we also like \_\_\_\_\_? In what ways are we different?
  - l. After hearing the story, how might it change how you view yourself?
  - m. Has God ever used you ... ?
  - n. Why do you suppose ... ?
  - o. Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
  - p. How do you feel about God/Jesus now?
  - q. What is something you never realized before today?
  - r. What is the most interesting thing you heard today?
  - s. How did this story challenge you or encourage you?
-

# DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS

## ◆ Response Questions - Hands (Actions)



*My goal is to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to respond to and apply what I've learned from the story.*

*How should I apply the story to my life?*

*What does God want me, specifically, to do with what I have learned from the story?*

*I want to SERVE God by obeying what I've learned from His Word.*

- 
- a. What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to make a change in your life?
  - b. From what you learned today, what do you feel God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is asking you to do?
  - c. What do you think God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is saying to you?
  - d. What should you do differently because of today's story? What difference will this make in how you love and serve Him?
  - e. What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story? How can you put this insight into practice this week?
  - f. How should we respond to God/Jesus today?
  - g. After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
  - h. Do you want to know God like this? Is there something happening right now in your life where God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit could help you?
  - i. Who can you share this story with this week?
  - j. How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?

## KIDStory Lessons Years A-D

|    | Theme            | Year A   | Year B   | Year C  | Year D   |
|----|------------------|--|--|---|--|
| 1  | Creation         | God Creates Everything<br><i>Genesis 1:1, 3-5; 6-25(summarized); 26, 31; 2:1-3</i> | God Gives Adam and Eve the Garden of Eden<br><i>Gen. 1:27-30; 2:8-9, 15-17</i> | God Creates Adam<br><i>Genesis 2:4-8</i>                              | God Creates Eve<br><i>Genesis 2:18-25</i>                          |
| 2  | Fall/Sin         | Adam and Eve: The First Sin<br><i>Genesis 3:1-7</i>                                | Adam and Eve Feel Shame<br><i>Genesis 3:7-13</i>                               | Adam and Eve: Consequences of the Fall<br><i>Genesis 3:16-21</i>      | Cain Kills His Brother Abel<br><i>Genesis 4:1-7</i>                |
| 3  | Genesis Stories  | Noah Builds the Ark<br><i>Genesis 6:17-22</i>                                      | Abraham: God's Covenant<br><i>Genesis 17:1-8</i>                               | Isaac Has Twins, Jacob and Esau<br><i>Genesis 25:27-34</i>            | Joseph's Dreams and Colorful Coat<br><i>Genesis 37:3-8</i>         |
| 4  |                  | Noah: Animals Enter the Ark<br><i>Genesis 7:5-10</i>                               | Abraham Sends Away Hagar and Ishmael<br><i>Genesis 21:14-20</i>                | Jacob Tricks His Father Isaac<br><i>Genesis 27:18-27a</i>             | Joseph Sold Into Slavery<br><i>Genesis 37:18-28</i>                |
| 5  |                  | Noah: A Colorful Promise<br><i>Genesis 9:8-15</i>                                  | Abraham's Son Isaac is Born<br><i>Genesis 21:1-7</i>                           | Moses: God Provides Food in the Wilderness<br><i>Exodus 16:15b-24</i> | Joseph Rules in Egypt<br><i>Genesis 41:37-42</i>                   |
| 6  |                  | Language Confused, People Scattered<br><i>Genesis 11:1-9</i>                       | Abraham Gives Up Isaac<br><i>Genesis 22:9-18</i>                               | Moses: God Gives the Ten Commandments<br><i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>        | Joseph Reveals Himself to His Family<br><i>Genesis 45:4-9</i>      |
| 7  | Exodus Stories   | Moses: A Baby in a Basket<br><i>Exodus 2:1-10</i>                                  | Moses Tells Pharaoh, "Let My People Go!"<br><i>Exodus 7:14-10:29 (Summary)</i> | God Calls Out to Samuel<br><i>1 Samuel 3:1-10</i>                     | Moses: God's People Worship a Golden Calf<br><i>Exodus 32:1-14</i> |
| 8  |                  | Moses and the Burning Bush<br><i>Exodus 3:1-12</i>                                 | Moses: The Passover<br><i>Exodus 12:21-30</i>                                  | King Saul Disobeys God<br><i>1 Samuel 15:17-23</i>                    | Moses: God's Tabernacle<br><i>Exodus 35-40 (Summary)</i>           |
| 9  |                  | Moses Crosses the Red Sea on Dry Ground<br><i>Exodus 14:21-31</i>                  | Moses: God Provides Water in the Wilderness<br><i>Exodus 17:1-6</i>            | God Chooses David<br><i>1 Samuel 16:6-13a</i>                         | God Chooses Gideon<br><i>Judges 6:11-24a</i>                       |
| 10 | Historical Books | Spies to the Promised Land<br><i>Numbers 13:25-33</i>                              | Daniel is Faithful to God<br><i>Daniel 1:11-20</i>                             | David Defeats Goliath<br><i>1 Samuel 17:40-50</i>                     | Gideon Defeats the Enemy<br><i>Judges 7:2-7</i>                    |

## KIDStory Lessons Years A-D

|    | Theme                      | Year A  | Year B   | Year C  | Year D   |
|----|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 11 |                            | Joshua: Jericho's Walls Fall Down<br><i>Joshua 6:8-16, 20</i> | Daniel's Friends Saved in the Furnace<br><i>Daniel 3:13-28</i> | David Brings Back the Ark<br><br><i>2 Samuel 6:12-15</i>    | Samson Loses His Strength<br><br><i>Judges 16:15-20</i>          |
| 12 |                            | Elisha: Naaman is Healed<br><i>2 Kings 5:9-15</i>             | Daniel in the Lion's Den<br><br><i>Daniel 6:10-23</i>          | Solomon Asks for Wisdom<br><i>1 Kings 3:5-14</i>            | Jonah Preaches Repentance<br><i>Jonah 3:1-6, 10</i>              |
| 13 | Prophet                    | Isaiah's Vision of God<br><br><i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i>             | Elijah and the False Prophets<br><i>1 Kings 18:25-39</i>       | Elisha Helps a Poor Widow<br><br><i>2 Kings 4:1-7</i>       | Elisha Brings a Boy Back to Life<br><i>2 Kings 4:25-35</i>       |
| 14 | Jesus' Birth and Childhood | Jesus' Birth: An Angel Comes to Mary<br><i>Luke 1:26-38</i>   | Jesus' Birth: Shepherds Visit Him<br><i>Luke 2:8-20</i>        | Jesus' Birth: Wise Men Bring Gifts<br><i>Matthew 2:8-12</i> | Jesus' Birth: Prophecy of Simeon<br><i>Luke 2:25-34a</i>         |
| 15 | Jesus' Life                | Jesus as a Boy<br><i>Luke 2:41-52</i>                         | Jesus is Baptized<br><br><i>Matthew 3:13-17</i>                | Jesus Resists Satan's Temptations<br><i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>  | Jesus Chooses His First Disciples<br><i>Luke 5:1-11</i>          |
| 16 | Teacher                    | Nicodemus Visits Jesus<br><br><i>John 3:1-8, 16-17</i>        | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet<br><i>John 13:3-15</i>        | Jesus: Don't Be Anxious<br><br><i>Matthew 6:25-34</i>       | Jesus Asks, "Are You Wise or Foolish?"<br><i>Matthew 7:24-29</i> |
| 17 | Parable                    | Jesus: Story of the Lost Lamb<br><i>Luke 15:1-7</i>           | Jesus Teaches on Treasures<br><i>Matthew 13:44-46</i>          | Jesus: Story of the Lost Son<br><br><i>Luke 15:11-24</i>    | Jesus: Story of the Good Samaritan<br><i>Luke 10:25-37</i>       |
| 18 | Miracle                    | Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind<br><i>John 9:1-11</i>            | Jesus Stops the Raging Storm<br><i>Mark 4:35-41</i>            | Jesus and Peter Walk on Water<br><i>Matthew 14:23-33</i>    | Jesus Casts Out Demons<br><br><i>Mark 5:1-13</i>                 |
| 19 | Healer                     | Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter<br><i>Luke 8:49-56</i>           | Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus<br><i>Mark 10:46-52</i>           | Jesus Heals the Paralytic<br><br><i>Luke 5:17-26</i>        | Jesus Heals Ten Lepers<br><br><i>Luke 17:11-19</i>               |
| 20 | Interaction with a person  | Zacchaeus Has to See Jesus<br><i>Luke 19:1-10</i>             | Jesus Blesses the Children<br><br><i>Mark 10:13-16</i>         | A Woman Anoints Jesus<br><br><i>Luke 7:36-50</i>            | Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler<br><i>Mark 10:17-27</i>           |

## KIDStory Lessons Years A-D

|    | <b>Theme</b>                | <b>Year A</b>  | <b>Year B</b>  | <b>Year C</b>  | <b>Year D</b>  |
|----|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 21 | Death and Resurrection      | Jesus Enters Jerusalem in Triumph<br><i>Luke 19:29b-41</i> | Jesus is Crucified<br><i>Mark 15:33-39</i>                         | Peter Denies He Knows Jesus<br><i>Matthew 26:69-75</i>       | Jesus is Alive!<br><i>Luke 24:1-12</i>                                   |
| 22 | Pentecost & Start of Church | Jesus Goes to Heaven<br><i>Acts 1:8-11; Luke 24:52-53</i>  | God Releases the Holy Spirit on Pentecost<br><i>Acts 2:1-12</i>    | The Fellowship of the First Believers<br><i>Acts 2:42-47</i> | Philip Tells the Ethiopian the Good News of Jesus<br><i>Acts 8:26-39</i> |
| 23 | Acts, Paul, John            | Jesus Chooses Saul, His Persecutor<br><i>Acts 9:3-18</i>   | Paul's Jailer Becomes a Follower of Christ<br><i>Acts 16:25-34</i> | Peter Heals a Lame Man<br><i>Acts 3:1-10</i>                 | God's People Need to Wear His Armor<br><i>Ephesians 6:10-18</i>          |
| 24 |                             | Tabitha Comes Back to Life<br><i>Acts 9:36-42</i>          | Paul in Corinth<br><i>Acts 18:4-11</i>                             | Peter Released from Jail by an Angel<br><i>Acts 12:6-16</i>  | The Apostle John's Dream about Heaven<br><i>Revelation 21:1-7</i>        |



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