



**KIDStory™**



kids around the world

Bible Story Curriculum  
for use by  
Hope Walks Parent Advisors



**HOPE  
WALKS**



# Welcome to KIDStory & The Bible Stories Curriculum for Use by Hope Walks Parent Advisors

The materials and lessons in this manual are part of a strategy called KIDStory which equips Parent Advisors to create environments where families of children with clubfoot can encounter the love of Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit. Through these resources, 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 and families 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 participants, then encourage them 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

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 and families can learn: who God is, who they are (their purpose and value), how to have a relationship with Jesus that is real and personal and how to cope with challenges of a child being born with clubfoot. We believe these things will happen when the following core essentials are practiced:

- **Bible Centered:** The core of every lesson, both in teaching children, families and training leaders, is the Bible Story. Everything 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 everyday life. In order for this to happen and to engage a person, it needs to be fun. When there is fun and laughter, both children and adults will want to be involved, come back and bring their friends with them.
- **Empowering:** KIDStory is simple and practical. Leaders can show others how to use this strategy and the people can retell the Bible Stories to family and friends.
- **Relational:** Of all the things that draw children and others 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 them 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.



*Teach these stories in a place where families feel welcomed, loved, and blessed.*

These stories can be shared in any place where participants can 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 children and others. It's here that children and families 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. These places can be clubfoot clinics or nearby churches or even the homes of parents when a Parent Advisor visits.

**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 participants 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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1. Mr. Moussa Yahaya, Program Manager, Hope Walks Niger
2. Mr. Isaac Mutua, Counseling Coordinator, Clubfoot Care Kenya
3. Mr. Loice Chipere, Program Manager, Hope Walks Zambia
4. Dr. Faical Oubda, Program Manager, Hope Walks Burkina Faso

Topics included in this curriculum are:

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Why was my child born with a disability?     | 8. Experiencing God's love         |
| 2. Biblical view of disability                  | 9. Trust in God                    |
| 3. Role of parents in a child's life            | 10. Receiving God's forgiveness    |
| 4. Coping with pressures and challenges of life | 11. Forgiving others               |
| 5. Coping when others say hard things           | 12. The Body of Christ             |
| 6. God's blessings in and through suffering     | 13. Adhering to Discipline         |
| 7. Being with God in prayer and worship         | 14. Patience and Perseverance      |
|   | 15. Family, Friends and Belonging. |

Additional topics can be added as our Parent Advisors gain skill and confidence in using this methodology and develop additional stories. So, Welcome!! We pray the Lord opens up many doors for you to create environments where children encounter the love of Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit.



## Lesson Format for KIDStory

### Opening:

- Choose a question or activity where participants 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 hearers 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 participants 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 participants to learn so they can tell others.

### Retell:

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

### 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 participants know that the story comes from the Bible and that it is true.

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

Move the participants 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

### Tell the Story:

- Use costumes or objects.
- Have children and others 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 the first part of the story. Repeat until the story is done.
- Art: Billboard. Design a roadside billboard to tell the story.
- Drama: Give participants 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 and others 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?



#### 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 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?



#### 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?





## Sample Schedule

### **Welcome:**

Greet people and create an environment where they are welcomed

Formal opening to the club time

Prayer

### **Games:**

Have fun!

Participants and leaders are engaged, where relationships are being built.

Choose games where children and adults can be involved.

### **Large Group:**

*Connect:* Participants 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 everyone.

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 participants are having fun, everyone is involved and want to invite their friends.

Discipleship continues as personal interaction can happen with the Connect time and following up on previous answers to Hand Questions. The Bible story is told in ways that participants 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 meeting to a close, creating enthusiasm to return with testimonies and friends.



## Retell Activities and Descriptions

*It is important to retell the Bible story after it's been told. So participants 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 participants in the story. Listed below are various ways to retell a Bible story which engages participants in different ways. One way not listed, if the participants 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 participants draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each person share their pictures with the rest of the group. If there are different scenes from the story, have them put the pictures in the order that they occurred.
- **Group Poster:** If you have the materials, have the participants work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow them to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.
- **Story Parts:** Give each person 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. They 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 them work on a poster that tells the story. If you only have single sheets, have each person draw a different part of the story or their favorite part of the story and share it with the class.
- **Comic Strip:** Give each person 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 person draw a simple picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story. Let them 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 participants write words or draw pictures which tell 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 participants draw it. You can use this simple picture as a way of reviewing the different Bible stories in weeks to come.
- **Book Cover Design:** Participants design and draw their own book cover with words and pictures that best capture the different parts of the Bible story.



## Retell Activities and Descriptions

### ● DRAMA / ARTS

- **Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the participants. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two participants 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.
- **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 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 participants, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.



## Retell Activities and Descriptions

### ● GAMES I

- **Ball Game:** Several different games can be played with a ball. Have the participants get in a circle. When you say "GO," or start playing the music, the participants 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 participants 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 participants 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 pace
  - 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 participants 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 participants 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 participants do not know who will be next.
- **Line Up:** Have the participants 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 participants 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":** Get 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 participants 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.
- **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.
- **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.



## 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.*

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- 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.*

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- 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?



## OPENING

Share something special you see in your child or the “Me Too” activity on page 3.

## BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today’s story*

Jesus has been sharing with everyone the love of God by His words and actions. He told one of the religious leaders that God so loved everyone that He sent His Son and if you believe He is the Savior, that you would have everlasting life. He demonstrated God’s love by healing people of various diseases, feeding people miraculously and forgiving them of their sins. Some people loved and followed Jesus because of this, others hated Him.

## TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today’s story*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been born blind. His followers asked him, “Teacher, whose sin caused this man to be born blind—his own sin or his parents’ sin?”

Jesus answered, “It is not this man’s sin or his parents’ sin that made him blind. This man was born blind so that God’s power could be shown in him. After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground and made some mud with it and put the mud on the man’s eyes. Then he told the man, “Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam.” (Siloam means Sent.) So the man went, washed, and came back seeing. The neighbors and some people who had earlier seen this man begging said, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “He is the one,” but others said, “No, he only looks like him.” The man himself said, “I am the man.” They asked, “How did you get your sight?” He answered, “The man named Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. Then he told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

## RETELL

**Top Ten:** Have the participants, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.

**Rope Game:** Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the people 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.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like about the story? What might have been hard for you to hear?
- I wonder what different feelings the parents had when their son was born blind.
- The main question or thought I had when my child was born was \_\_\_\_\_.
- We often play the “blame game” when something does not work out the way we expected. The religious leaders were trying to blame someone for the man’s blindness. In regards to your child’s disability, what have people tried to blame? What have they said to you or your child and how did it make you feel?

- How might the parents have felt about their son before and after he was healed? The neighbors?
- What does the story tell us about Jesus and God?
- If you could tell God something, I would want him to know that \_\_\_\_\_.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- After hearing today's story, how might your view of your child or God be different?
- After hearing today's story, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

### CLOSING BLESSING

Thank you, Lord for creating each of us so wonderfully. Open our eyes to how special each of us are and how You care for and love everyone just the same. Bless each family here with a greater awareness of You and how You are working in our lives.

### *Activity: Me Too ...*

Very often we believe we are the only ones who have experienced a certain trauma or feel the way we do. There is comfort in knowing that others have experienced the same thing; we are not alone.

Using a rope or imaginary line, have everyone stand on one side of the line. When you call out something, everyone who can agree to the statement, crosses over to the other side of the line. Call out something else and whoever can agree to that statement, then stands on the other side. (There will be mixing back and forth as children move to be on the appropriate side. Vary the situations between something common and other things that can be traumatic.)

Here is a list of possible events / statements the people can agree or disagree to. Use whatever ones might be appropriate or create ones that are culturally relevant to the people you serve.

- You are wearing something blue
- You are the oldest in your family
- You like singing songs
- You live with only one parent. (You are a single parent)
- You get yelled at a lot. (You get frustrated with all the responsibilities you have)
- You like eating \_\_\_\_\_. (Something well liked in your culture)
- You get called names.
- You feel lonely a lot
- Yellow is one of your favorite colors
- There is someone in your family that really loves you
- You feel "stuck" sometimes and wish someone would help you
- You made the decision to follow Jesus before you were 14 years old (adults) OR I am a follower of Jesus
- One of your favorite Bible stories is \_\_\_\_\_ (David and Goliath, Noah and the ark, Jesus being born, etc)
- You are told a lot that you can do better if you tried harder
- (For adults: You feel cursed because of your situation.)



## OPENING

Share a time you were asked to do something where you felt very inadequate.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

The children of Israel had been in Egypt for 400 years and the Egyptians had made them slaves and oppressed them to a point of despair. Now Moses was born at a time when the Egyptian King (Pharaoh) had decreed that all male children born by Israelites be killed. As a newborn, Moses was hidden in reeds under the watch of his sister but was found by Pharaoh's daughter and brought up in the Egyptian palace and a grandchild of Pharaoh.

As a young man, he killed an Egyptian who was fighting an Israelite. He later learned that people knew about this and fled for his life only to live in the Midian desert for 40 years. God appeared to Moses through an encounter with a burning bush, asking him to go back to Egypt to save the children of Israel from the hands of the Egyptians. What is Moses' response to this call on his life?

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

"The Israelite cry for help has come to me, and I've seen for myself how cruelly they're being treated by the Egyptians. It's time for you to go back: I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the People of Israel, out of Egypt."

Moses answered God, "But why me? What makes you think that I could ever go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

Moses objected, "They won't trust me. They won't listen to a word I say. They're going to say, 'God? Appear to him? Hardly!'"

Moses raised another objection to God: "Master, please, I don't talk well. I've never been good with words, neither before nor after you spoke to me. I stutter and stammer."

God said, "And who do you think made the human mouth? And who makes some mute, some deaf, some sighted, some blind? Isn't it I, God? So, get going. I'll be right there with you—with your mouth! I'll be right there to teach you what to say."

## RETELL

**Motions:** Use different motions to illustrate each segment of the story. You can assign one motion to each person or small group and they need to demonstrate their motion in the order in which it comes in the story.

**Dice:** The participants are sitting in a circle. The first person starts retelling the Bible story. At the signal, the person stops, rolls the dice, and whatever number appears, you count clockwise that number of people. That person now continues retelling the story until the signal is given, etc.

### DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- I wonder what made Moses hesitant about going to the Pharaoh.
- What feelings do you have when you are hesitant to do something?
- What is most difficult about having a child with club feet?
- What feelings do you have when being asked to take on new responsibilities, especially in regards to your child's treatment plan?
- This story tells me that God is \_\_\_\_\_.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does God want us to learn from this story?
- What do we learn about the people who have any disability?  
From what I learned today, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

### CLOSING BLESSING

Thank you Lord that You created us all as we are and You are willing to help us in our areas of weakness. Lord, bless each one with the needed courage to do what You are asking of them.





## OPENING

Share about a time that you felt like people did not want you around.

## BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

A disciple is someone who follows everything their teacher says and does. Listen to how the disciples respond to certain people when they are with Jesus. Where Jesus lived, children were not thought of very highly.

## TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Some people brought their little children to Jesus so he could touch them, but his followers told them to stop. When Jesus saw this, he was upset and said to them, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these children.

I tell you the truth, you must accept the kingdom of God as if you were a little child, or you will never enter it." Then Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.

## 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.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like about this story?
- I wonder why Jesus got so angry with His disciples.
- What emotions do you think the children had throughout the story?
- I wonder what Jesus blessed the children with. What do you think he said to them?
- Imagine your child is one of those children coming to Jesus. What would you want Him to bless your child with?
- Imagine that you are one of those children. What feelings do you have? What would you want Him to bless you with?
- If Jesus could say one thing to me, I would want to hear \_\_\_\_\_.
- Something I want Jesus to know is \_\_\_\_\_.
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- After hearing today's story, how might your view of your child or God be different?
- This week, I will tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

### CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, bless each person here with your overwhelming joy and love.



● ● ● COPING WITH PRESSURE AND CHALLENGES –  
THE GOD WHO SEES ME  
Genesis 21:14-20



### OPENING

Share a time when you really felt alone, desperate and / or helpless.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

God had promised to give Abraham a son through whom he would become a great nation. However, Sarah, his wife, was barren and in desperation to give her husband a son, she gave him her maid servant Hagar to bear children for her. Hagar gave birth to a son and named him Ishmael. But afterwards God fulfilled his promise to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah and she gave birth to a son and named him Isaac. She then asked Abraham to send away Hagar and her son Ishmael. Abraham gave her some bread and a container of water and she wandered in the desert. But soon the water ran out and she and her son were thirsty and could not find water.

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Abraham got up early the next morning, got some food together and a canteen of water for Hagar, put them on her back and sent her away with the child. She wandered off into the desert of Beersheba. When the water was gone, she left the child under a shrub and went off, fifty yards or so. She said, "I can't watch my son die." As she sat, she broke into sobs.

Meanwhile, God heard the boy crying. The angel of God called from Heaven to Hagar, "What's wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy and knows the fix he's in. Up now; go get the boy. Hold him tight. I'm going to make of him a great nation."

Just then God opened her eyes. She looked. She saw a well of water. She went to it and filled her canteen and gave the boy a long, cool drink.

God was on the boy's side as he grew up. He lived out in the desert and became a skilled archer.

### RETELL

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

**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.

### DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What made you sad in the story?
- What made you glad about the story?
- What feelings do you think Hagar felt when she was not able to provide what her son needed?

- How do you know God listens to the cries of your children when they cry from distress, pain, neglect or rejection?
- What does the story tell us about God?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- When have you felt desperate for you and your child?
- How do you see God caring for you and your child?
- How does God want you to care for your child?
- What do you think God wants you to do because of what you learned today?

### CLOSING BLESSING

Thank you, Lord, for your love for the children, for our children.



● ● ● COPING WHEN OTHERS SAY HARD THINGS TO US -  
BARTIMAEUS YELLS OUT AND GETS HEALED BY JESUS  
Mark 10:46-52



### OPENING

Share a time when people around you discouraged you from voicing out your needs. OR

Share a time when you did not listen to those around you who told you seeking treatment for your child was a waste of time and resources.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus has been going around teaching and performing many miracles. People are amazed by all that He says and does so many of them keep following Him everywhere He goes. The story is going to talk about "Son of David." This means that Jesus came from the family of David who lived many generations before Him.

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

As Jesus was leaving Jericho, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, was sitting alongside the road. When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, "Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped in his tracks. "Call him over."

They called him. "It's your lucky day! Get up! He's calling you to come!" Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus.

Jesus said, "What can I do for you?"

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"On your way," said Jesus. "Your faith has saved and healed you."

In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road.

### RETELL

**Role play:** Have the participants act out the story

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

### DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What made you sad in the story?
- What did you like about the story?
- What surprised you in the story?

- What do you think the man felt when others rebuked him and asked him to be quiet?
- When have you felt like Bartimaeus?
- What do we learn from Bartimaeus on how to respond when others rebuke or discourage us when we are trying to do the right thing?
- What does the story tell you about how Jesus?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What hard things have been said to you because your child was born with clubfoot?
- What hard things have been said to you to discourage you from treatment for your child born with clubfoot?
- What do you learn from the story about how to respond to such discouraging voices of other people?
- What are you sensing God wants you to do with what you have learned today?

### CLOSING BLESSING

Thank You Lord that you hear our cries and prayers. Help us God not to give up calling upon Your name no matter what those around us say or do.



● ● ● GOD'S BLESSINGS IN AND THROUGH SUFFERING –  
JOSEPH LOVES HIS BROTHERS  
Genesis 45:4-11



### OPENING

Share a time when someone desperately needed your help yet they had earlier mistreated you.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Joseph's brothers hated him and sold him as a slave. He ended up in Egypt where he was bought by a soldier in Pharaoh's service. He was falsely accused by the soldier's wife and thrown in jail. One day, he interpreted Pharaoh's dream which led him to be second in command of the whole country and in charge of preparing for the famine that was to come. He led Egyptians to store their food they harvested for seven years so that they could eat it the following seven years of famine. On the second year of famine, Joseph's brothers learned that Egypt had food and they came down only to find their brother in charge of Egypt. They didn't recognize him at first until he revealed his identity to them. This leads us to today's story.

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

"Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourselves for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years—neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God. He set me in place as a father to Pharaoh, put me in charge of his personal affairs, and made me ruler of all Egypt.

"Hurry back to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: I'm master of all of Egypt. Come as fast as you can and join me here. I'll give you a place to live in Goshen where you'll be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and anything else you can think of. I'll take care of you there completely. There are still five more years of famine ahead; I'll make sure all your needs are taken care of, you and everyone connected with you—you won't want for a thing.'

### RETELL

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

Object Toss: Have everyone get into circles of about 8. Have them toss an object 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.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- What thoughts and feelings do you think Joseph had when he saw his brothers seeking for help yet they sold him away in the past?
- How might the brothers have felt approaching the person in charge of running the country for the Pharaoh? How might their feelings have changed when they realized that this person was their brother whom they had badly mistreated?
- What suffering did you go through because your child was born with clubfoot? What do you think could be the blessings that come because your child was born with clubfoot?
- How can God use suffering in our life including your child being born with clubfoot?
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does the story tell us about God?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- After hearing today's story, what do you believe God wants you to do?
- This week, I will tell this story to \_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSING BLESSING

Thank you, Lord, that you are with us always and in all situations as you were with Joseph when he was sold in Egypt and later his brother found him in charge of Egypt. Help us God to trust in you at all times and in all situations and help us out of the suffering we go through as you helped Joseph.



● ● ● RECEIVING GOD'S FORGIVENESS – THE PARALYTIC  
LOWERED THROUGH THE CEILING  
Luke 5:18-26



### OPENING

Share a time when you experienced the joy and inner freedom of being forgiven.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

A lot of things happened in the Life of Jesus when he was on the earth that teach us about the heart of God. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every village of Galilee, Judea and Jerusalem and Jesus was teaching them. A paralytic, also called a paraplegic, is someone whose legs do not move. Blasphemy is speaking untruths about God.

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Some men arrived carrying a paraplegic on a stretcher. They were looking for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. When they couldn't find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus. Impressed by their bold belief, he said, "Friend, I forgive your sins."

That set the religion scholars and Pharisees buzzing. "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemous talk! God and only God can forgive sins."

Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking and said, "Why all this gossipy whispering? Which is simpler: to say 'I forgive your sins,' or to say 'Get up and start walking'? Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both. . . ." He now spoke directly to the paraplegic: "Get up. Take your bedroll and go home." Without a moment's hesitation, he did it—got up, took his blanket, and left for home, giving glory to God all the way. The people rubbed their eyes, stunned—and then also gave glory to God. Awestruck, they said, "We've never seen anything like that!"

### RETELL

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

**Pass it Around:** Have the group stand in a circle and a ball of cotton padding tossed from one to the other while some music is playing. When the music stops, whoever catches it tells a portion of the story. Start passing the cotton pad around again when the music starts back up.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like in the story?
- What surprises you in this story?
- I wonder why Jesus said to the man, "Your sins are forgiven."
- The Jews often associate sickness and disability with sin. How do you think this affected the paralysed man? Has this attitude impacted you and your family? If so, how?
- What does the story tell us about Jesus? What do we learn from how Jesus dealt with the paralyzed man in this story?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What feelings do you have in your suffering or challenges especially as it relates to your child with clubfoot?
- From what you learned today, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, thank you for your promise in 1 John 1:9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I bless each one with the purification that comes because of Your faithfulness.





## OPENING

Share a time when you chose to forgive or found it hard to forgive someone who hurt you.

### **BACKGROUND:** *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Many people are following Jesus because they are excited about what He is teaching and the miracles that are happening through him. Jesus used stories, called parables, to teach people important lessons.

### **TELL:** *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

"The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

"The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

"The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

"The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

"The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

## RETELL

**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.

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

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like about the story?
- Who do relate to most in the story?
- Imagine being the King in the story. What emotions did he experience throughout the story? (You might stop at each segment and have people share what emotions he may have had.)
- What does the story tell us about people? In what ways do you relate to the different servants? How do you relate to the King?
- Has anyone hurt you with their words or actions because your child was born with clubfoot? I wonder what God wants me to do when that happens.
- What does the story tell us about God?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- Something this Bible Story teaches me is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Something God wants me to do because of today's lesson is \_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord give us the grace to forgive those who hurt us just as you have forgiven us . Help us to love as you have loved us.





## OPENING

Share a time when you experienced the feeling of being alone.

## BACKGROUND: a brief explanation of what led up to today's story

One of the most important parts of Jesus's mission on earth was to make people discover the true character of God through His expression of love. Jesus healed a lot of people when He physically lived in this world. He opened the eyes of the blind. He healed the lepers. He delivered people who were possessed by evil spirits. He forgave sinners and made them members of God's family. He taught them how to live as God's children in His kingdom. During this time, leprosy was a disease that had no cure. You could not have any social interaction with anyone else and were forced to stay away from those you loved. Everyone was afraid they would catch the disease if a leper came too close to them. If they saw a leper they would chase him away.

## TELL: use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said.

Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed.

## RETELL

**Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the participants. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two people who want to be the person telling the story while the others act it out. Since there are not too many characters in this story, you could have several groups acting it out.

**Cotton Ball Toss:** Have the people get into circles of about 8. Have them toss a cotton 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 cotton ball has to say the next part of the story.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like in this story?
- What surprises you in this story?
- I wonder why Jesus touched the leper to heal him.
- Leprosy was associated with social rejection and isolation. How do you think this affected the leper? What were the different feelings the leper had during the story?
- Share what it has been like to have other people respond to your child born with a clubfoot. How has it been the same and different than the man with leprosy? Have you felt unloved by others because your child was born with clubfoot?

- How do you think Jesus felt throughout the story?
- This story tells me that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What lesson do we learn from this story about God's love and how is this applicable for you and your child in your context?
- From what I learned in today's Bible Story, I believe God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

### CLOSING BLESSING

Pray a blessing over the people by proclaiming John 3:16 over them:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."





## OPENING

Share a time when your resources were limited and you needed help from someone else.

## BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus showed compassion and responded to the requests of people who came to him for healing or deliverance. It took trust and faith for people to come to Jesus. Today we will learn about a particular man who marveled Jesus by his great faith.

## TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

As Jesus entered the village of Capernaum, a Roman captain came up in a panic and said, "Master, my servant is sick. He can't walk. He's in terrible pain."

Jesus said, "I'll come and heal him."

"Oh, no," said the captain. "I don't want to put you to all that trouble. Just give the order and my servant will be fine. I'm a man who takes orders and gives orders. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes; to another, 'Come,' and he comes; to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Taken aback, Jesus said, "I've yet to come across this kind of simple trust in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know all about God and how he works."

Then Jesus turned to the captain and said, "Go. What you believed could happen has happened." At that moment his servant became well.

## RETELL

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

**Partners:** Have everyone get into smaller groups of 2 to 3. Each person 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.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like about the story?
- What feelings do you experience while listening to the story?
- What choices did the centurion have? What other choices could he have made? What happened in the story because of the choices he made?
- What choices are you facing right now that may be difficult to choose which one to make.
- What does this story tell us about people?
- What does the story tell us about God and Jesus?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- How does God use the medical staff in the clinic to heal your child from clubfoot?
- Because of what I learned today, I feel God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

### CLOSING BLESSING

Pray a blessing over everyone with the verse, Proverbs 3:5-6:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”



● ● ● BEING WITH GOD: PRAYER/WORSHIP –  
MARY AND MARTHA  
Luke 10:38-42



### OPENING

Share about a time when you were left alone to do some family chores when others were out doing something fun.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus had some very close friends, other than the disciples, who were from the same family. Their names were Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Women during this time were expected to serve their guests and not always participate in the conversations with the men.

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. "Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand."

The Master said, "Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her."

### 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 people 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. When you say, "GO," the people start moving the rope until you say "STOP."

### DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as you were hearing the story?
- What surprised you in the story?
- What different emotions did Martha have in our story?
- When have you experienced these kinds of emotions?

- How do you think Martha felt when Jesus answered her the way He did?
- From this story, what is important to Jesus for you?
- What does the story tell us about God's desire for us?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What do you think Jesus wants you to know through this story?
- When you hear about taking time to be with God, how does that make you feel? When might that happen in the midst of all the household work that you do including caring for your children?
- What are you sensing God wants you to do because of what you have learned today?

### CLOSING BLESSING

God, bless these people with times of refreshment as they come to be with You. Make Your presence and love known to them as they do.





## OPENING

Share about a time when you felt accepted by a group or a family in an unexpected way.

### **BACKGROUND:** *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Paul is a follower of Jesus who started many churches. One of those churches was in Corinth. In the Bible you can see that Paul wrote 2 letters to the people in Corinth. He wrote these letters to encourage them in how to love Jesus and people better. He wanted the people to experience the love of Jesus and share that love with others. He wanted the people to care and love each other like Jesus did. Everyone was to value and honor one another like a family should; everyone has a special part in the church.

### **TELL:** *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this.

## RETELL

Dice: Everyone is sitting in a circle. The first person starts retelling the Bible story. At the signal, the person stops, rolls the dice, and whatever number appears, you count clockwise that number of people. That person now continues retelling the story until the signal is given, etc.

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

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What impressed you most about this Bible passage?
- What will happen if the whole body is full of eyes or hands?
- How do you need others in your community and how do they need you?
- I wonder what this means for people from different backgrounds and different gifts.
- What talents and gifts do you bring to serve others? How can others serve you?
- What do you think this means for each member of your family?
- What might God be feeling about your child who has the clubfoot?
- How does this change your perspective of your child and other people with special needs?
- What does this Bible passage tell us about God?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- How can our group or church help and support families that are struggling due to disability or clubfoot and make them feel welcome?
- How does it feel for each person to be needed and wanted at home and in the group?
- Because of what I have learned today, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, thank you for the gifts and talents you have given me that I can use to serve others and for the ways others can serve me and my family. Bless us as we love and serve each other. In Jesus Name! Amen





## OPENING

Share a time when you faced a big challenge having a child with clubfoot.

## BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus was raised in a town called Nazareth and grew in wisdom, in stature and in favor with God and other people. His cousin, John, was telling people to repent and turn their hearts back to God and then they should be baptized. John was letting them know that God was sending the Messiah, the One to forgive them of their sins. Jesus came to John to be baptized. When John saw Jesus, he exclaimed how Jesus was the lamb of God who would take away the sins of this world. After Jesus was baptized, God led Him into the wilderness. Satan was one of the most powerful angels God created. But he rebelled against God and was kicked out of Heaven, the place where God dwells. Satan, along with the angels that followed him, now try to get people to not believe and to dishonor God. He gets people to hate and distrust rather than to love God and one another. In our story today, Jesus is now 30 years old.

## TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: "Since you are God's Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread."

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God's mouth."

For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, "Since you are God's Son, jump." The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: "He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone."

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: "Don't you dare test the Lord your God."

For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth's kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, "They're yours—lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they're yours."

Jesus' refusal was curt: "Beat it, Satan!" He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness."

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus' needs.

## RETELL

Motions: Use different motions to illustrate each segment of the story. You can assign one motion to each person or small group and they need to demonstrate their motion in the order in which it comes in the story.

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

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you imagine as the story was being told? What did you see and / or hear?
- I wonder what Jesus felt like not having food or water for 40 days. What would you be feeling?
- Satan tried to tempt Jesus when He was weak and hungry. I wonder what was going through Jesus' mind when He was being tempted.
- What happens when you are tempted to do something you know is not right or brings dishonor to God?
- Being tempted is not a sin. It is following through and doing the wrongful act is the sin. In what ways are you tempted? What have you found to help you most to resist and not give into the temptation?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What challenges do you face in regularly being able to come to the clinic for treatment and having your child wear braces as instructed?
- I wonder why it is important to adhere to the discipline of your child having to wear the brace as per the instructions. When I adhere to this discipline, I discover that \_\_\_\_\_.  
When we don't adhere, we find that \_\_\_\_\_.
- From what we have learned today, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless each person with a desire to adhere to good disciplines. Bless them with strength and courage when adhering to such disciplines would be hard. Bless them and their families when they succeed in the disciplines necessary to draw closer to You and for their child to receive the healing that is needed.



## ● ● ● PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE – THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

### Luke 18:1-8



#### OPENING

Share a time when you exercised patience and perseverance. What were the fruits of your patience and perseverance?

#### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

One of the common ways Jesus taught people was by telling them stories from everyday life. These stories are called parables. They bring out an important lesson about how to live our life as God's children. In today's story Jesus tells us about prayer.

#### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Prayer was one of the important topics Jesus taught his disciples about. One day, he used a story to tell them why they should always persevere and never give up in prayer. Here is the story: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said to himself, 'I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.' Yes, by her insistence for the judge's intervention day after day, this widow finally got what she wanted.

Then Jesus concluded: "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

#### RETELL

**Motions:** Use different motions to illustrate each segment of the story. You can also assign one motion to each person or small group and they need to demonstrate their motion in the order in which it comes in the story.

**Brace Pass:** Have the participants get in a circle. When you say "GO," or start playing the music, a small clubfoot brace is passed around the circle until you say "STOP" or stop the music. When that happens, the person who has the brace has to say the next part of the story. When you say "GO" or start the music, the people start passing the brace till you say "STOP." Continue until the story is retold. The group can help if someone forgets what is next or goes too far in the story.

## DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like in this story?
- What strengths do you see in the widow who constantly petitioned the judge?
- What do you learn from this persistent widow that you can apply for your own situation in getting treatment for your child? What has that been like? What was the outcome? What emotions have you felt?
- In what ways have you been persistent with God in prayer? What challenges do you face in your own situation that you would need to persistently pray to God as this widow did?
- What has changed in you because of your persistence?
- What does this story tell us about God? How is God different from the corrupt judge?

## PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- From what you learned today, what is God asking of you?

## CLOSING BLESSING

God loves when we petition Him in faith. When we go to God with our needs, it shows that we trust Him and His love for us. God does not reject those who come to Him in faith and love. God answers prayers, but it will always be in the right time!

Read James 1:2-4 as a closing blessing over the participants: Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.





### OPENING

Share a time you were struggling with something and needed the help of others to get through.

### BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Before Jesus left for Heaven, He instructed His disciples to go to Jerusalem to wait for the helper, the Holy Spirit. He would come to them and enable them to become His witnesses. Ten days later, the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 people who were gathered together and they began preaching immediately. Those who believed in Jesus started increasing so they began meeting together.

### TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

### RETELL:

**Rope Game:** Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the participants 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.

**Top Ten:** Have everyone, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.

### DISCOVER QUESTIONS

- What did you like about this story?
- What were some of the things the first followers of Jesus did? I wonder what happened because of people treating each other this way.
- What feelings do you think these first disciples had because of the bond that they had.
- Do you have others whom you can call on to help when you have a need?
- What happens when people try to face struggles on their own.
- Where have you found assistance with your child/ren? If you haven't, or have been turned down at times, what did you do with the feelings that the rejection generated?

- In what ways can the local church and community be more inclusive with children and families with disabilities?
- What does this story tell us about the heart of God and what He desires?

### PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- What does the Lord want you to do with what you have learned today?
- In what ways might God want us to assist people in being more inclusive of others different from them?

### CLOSING BLESSING

Thank you, Lord, for this example of disciples who accepted one another and met every day for fellowship and teachings. They also shared sincerely with everyone according to their needs. Bless us and help us to be like them and be truly a family coming alongside one another.

