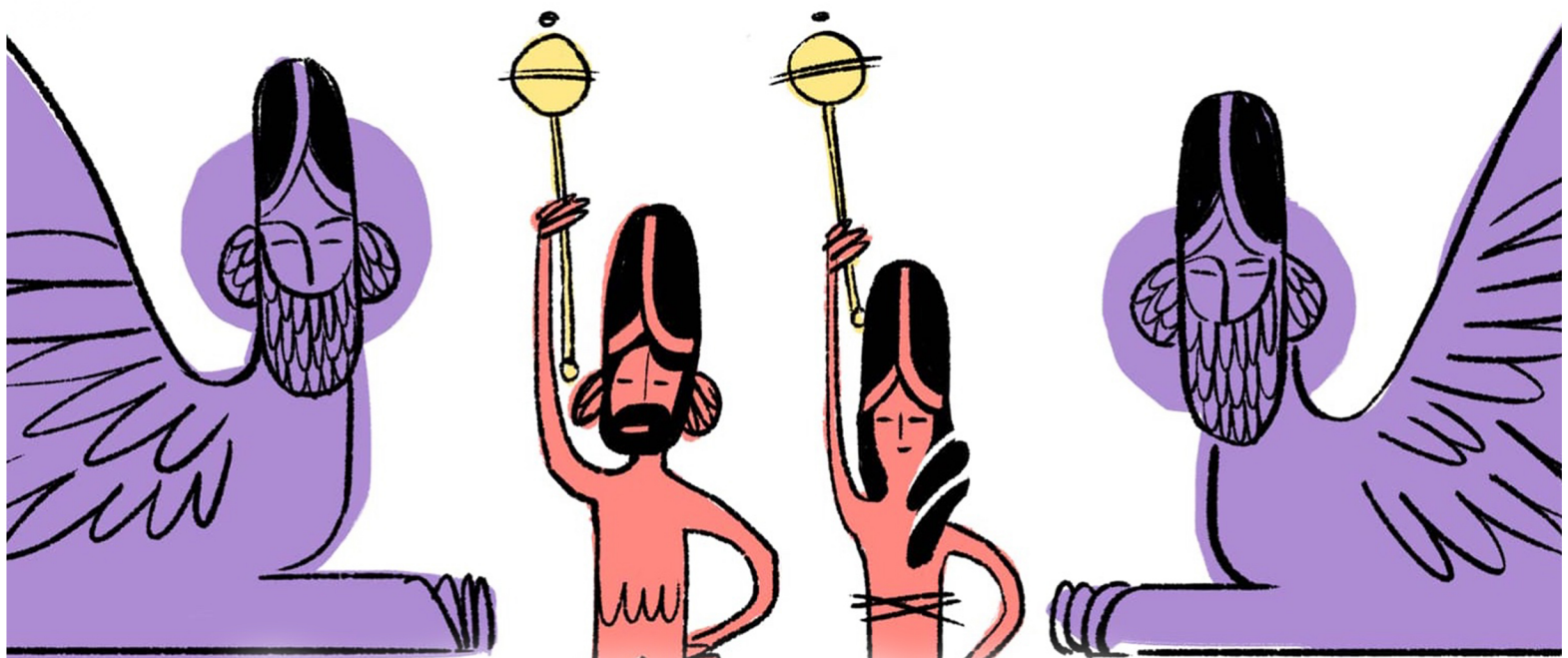


KIDStory[®] +

A PROGRAM OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD



The unified story of the BIBLE,
found in six BIBLE stories on:

IMAGE *of* **GOD**

A COLLABORATION OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD & THE BIBLE PROJECT



Bible Project

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Kids Around the World® 2020

katw.net

Welcome to KIDStory+

in collaboration with The Bible Project

The materials and lessons in this manual are based on a strategy called KIDStory, which equips leaders to create environments where kids can encounter the love of Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit. This method focuses on students learning individual stories throughout the Bible and discovering how they apply, uniquely, to each of our lives.

We realize that a time comes when a child, and their faith, matures. Bigger questions arise and deeper conversations are needed surrounding the overarching themes we find from Genesis to Revelation. Can students deeply and truly know God and His character? Can students deeply and truly understand the major themes of the Bible? We think so and we've partnered with our friends at The Bible Project to help connect these individual stories in a manner that helps people experience the Bible as a UNIFIED STORY that leads to Jesus.

We are calling this next step KIDStory+ and through these resources, and our partnership, we believe the tools you will discover here will revolutionize the next steps for your maturing students. ***If you are unfamiliar with the core KIDStory Strategy, we encourage you to begin with any of our early training offerings: Online, In-Person or Self-Study.*** This will provide you the building blocks needed to begin unlocking the Bible for your students in applicable and transforming ways! You can find these resources at: katw-kidstory.com

These strategies are fun to learn, easy to use and designed to be shared with others. Leaders listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit and the responses of their students, then encourage them to also listen and be obedient to God's voice. The questions and interactions posed by the leaders are not about simply learning information; rather they focus on 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.

You can find additional activities and questions in the back of this document for easy reference; however, understanding the foundations of the KIDStory Strategy will help multiply the impact of this material and so we highly encourage you to utilize the training and resources in the link above.

CORE ESSENTIALS

There are certain things you will find in every aspect of KIDStory, whether you are training leaders or leading a group of students. We want to create environments where students 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 | Fun | Empowering | Relational | Spirit-Led

To learn more about how to create disciple-making environments where these core essentials are present, you'll want to be sure you take part in one of our KIDStory Training opportunities.

KIDStory Clubs

an environment where disciple-making happens

... are environments, like Jesus created, where we feel welcomed, loved, and blessed.

A KIDStory Club is a place where students have fun and are free to ask real questions, connect dots and share what they are learning and experiencing; a place where God's presence is very real and evident. It's here that we leave behind rote learning concepts and step toward an approach that thrives on dialog, fun activities and is anchored in genuine relationships. It's where everyone feels safe, feels known and feels 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 young believers spiritually and have deeper conversations – 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 linked together in fun, creative ways, while being Biblically accurate. As important as it is to see God's unified story, it is not enough. It's also about listening – listening to the Spirit and listening to a student reveal how the Spirit is stirring their heart.

The methods used to tell and retell God's unified story are coupled with engaging questions that allow the Holy Spirit to operate in every heart. It capitalizes on what students have heard and learned, creating 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.

We are thrilled to work alongside the amazing scholars, storytellers and artists of The Bible Project, (bibleproject.com) who created each of the "overview" videos that will open and close each series. Additional content can be found at katw.net/kidstoryplus. Each manual will focus on a specific theme found throughout the Bible, equipping leaders and students to engage in subjects like:

- Justice
- Gospel of the Kingdom
- The Messiah
- The Image of God

So, WELCOME!!! We pray the Lord opens up many doors for you to create environments where students grow deeper in their faith and their understanding of God, His Son, and the enduring hope each of us is offered through our relationship with Him.

Series Format for KIDStory+

Initial Week:

- Briefly introduce the concept you will be exploring
- Identify how many Sessions you'll do together during the Series
- Show students The Bible Project video
- Introduce the Key Verse for the Series
- Conduct Session 1 for that Series

Middle Sessions:

- Briefly discuss what they remember and significant elements from The Bible Project video and previous Session
- Conduct next Session

Final Week:

- Briefly discuss what they remember and significant elements from the overview video and previous Session
- Conduct the final Session
- Watch The Bible Project video one more time
- Conduct the Series Closing Mini-Session
- Revisit the Key Verse for the Series

Each Series will open and close with a video from The Bible Project. These videos are created to provide an overview of a larger narrative in the Bible, and each Session will explore a specific story in the Bible where we see this clearly illustrated.

Each Series will include 4-5 total Sessions that link together, highlighting a specific theological or thematic element of God's unified story, pointing to Jesus. As you explore each Session, ensure the students are connecting the thread that runs through them all.

As you complete each Series, you will revisit The Bible Project video and facilitate some connecting questions to help the students discover where they see God and Jesus moving, and what the Holy Spirit is calling them to do.

Individual Session Format for KIDStory+

Opening:

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

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

Background:

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

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:

- Involve the students 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 students to learn so they can tell others

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

Retell:

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

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

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

Move the students 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.

Image of God Series Overview for Facilitators & Parents

To accomplish this, we will be using a few helpful tools that connect in meaningful ways, so understanding the BIG PICTURE will help you engage the students each week more deeply. We encourage you to read through this one-page overview to better grasp where we are starting and where we are hoping to land.

The KIDStory+ series are linked with videos created by the team at The Bible Project. To view it ahead of time and understand the unified story of the IMAGE OF GOD, as it points toward Jesus, you can watch the video here: vimeo.com/458157308/7a44b84917

We have constructed the series to resemble a snorkeling excursion. As we swim across the surface of the waters, at times we see specific things that can tell us more about the environment we are exploring. In order to understand it better, we dive down and take a peek. Then we swim back to the surface, catch our breath and keep swimming until we find the next thing to dive deep on! And that's exactly our plan. Over the next six weeks we will dive into the stories below, in hopes of better understanding what the phrase IMAGE OF GOD means to God, how it should impact our understanding of our own identity, and how we should perceive others as IMAGES OF GOD through the model that Jesus left for us! These may be familiar stories to you or your students, but our hope is that linking them together in this manner will create space for new engagement, deep conversation, and thoughtful questions!

JUSTICE SERIES:

Week 1 – In His Image (Exodus 1:26-31; 2:7)

From the start, God created humans to be unique and different than everything else

Week 2 – Surprisingly Special (1 Samuel 16:6-13a)

What we may think makes someone special, is often surprisingly different than God's perspective

Week 3 – Right Place, Right Time (Esther – *Crafted Story*)

God is always at work in your life, and perhaps He has your right where you are ON PURPOSE

Week 4 – When The Heat Is On (Daniel 3:13-28)

Remaining strong in who you truly are can bring on challenges, but God is ready to face them with you

Week 5 – Identity Crisis (Luke 15:11-24)

Placing my identity in the wrong things leads to pain, but you've never gone too far to come home

Week 6 – Seeking To Serve (John 13:4-8; 12-17)

Once I've settled on my place as an Image of God, how should that impact the way I treat others

We will define IMAGE as: *To be God's ambassadors and represent Him while carrying out His plan.*

Our series verse will be: *So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:20-21NIRV*



CREATED IN HIS IMAGE:

To be God's ambassadors and represent Him while carrying out His plan.

IN HIS IMAGE

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7

1. OPENING:

If you could be someone else, who would you want to be and why.

2. BACKGROUND:



3. TELL:



4. 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:

Over the next six weeks we are going to be talking about **THE IMAGE OF GOD**. Ask the students to describe what they think that means in their own words. "Let's watch a short video about it and then I have a Bible Story to tell you that may help us begin to see what God means when He talks about IMAGE."

<https://vimeo.com/458157308/7a44b84917>

God had been busy creating every aspect of the universe and our world for five days. At the end of each day, he looked at His work and said, "It is good."

On the sixth day of creation, God began by making all the animals that are on the land; wild animals, tame ones, others that crawled on the ground. God said this was good. But He was not done. His master creation was about to begin, something that would be God's representative on the earth.

BIBLE STORY:

Then God said, "*Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the tame animals, over all the earth, and over all the small crawling animals on the earth.*"

Then the Lord God took dust from the ground and formed a man from it. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nose, and the man became a living person. (Genesis 2:7)

So, God created human beings in His image. In the image of God, He created them. He

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5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- You may have heard this story before. What stood out to you this time?
- Imagine being the first person that God created. What do you think it was like when he first woke up and saw everything around him?
- What does the role that God gives the man and woman say about how we relate to each other (God and people)?
- Images reflect or represent something or someone. In your life, what are some ways you can reflect God? What makes it challenging for you to represent God?
- Why do you think God waited until all of His creation was complete to say it was *VERY* good?
- What does the story say about God's plan or purpose or role for you?
- This story tells me that God is _____.

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

- When God sees me, He sees _____.
- What does God's creativity teach me, so I can look more like Him and reflect Him to other people?
- Is there someone you know that has been given a false label or image that makes them feel like they "shouldn't even be here"? Does God want you (your class or your family) to respond to it somehow?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

created them male and female. God blessed them and said, *"Have many children and grow in number. Fill the earth and be its master. Rule over the fish in the sea and over the birds in the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

God said, *"Look, I have given you all the plants that have grain for seeds and all the trees whose fruits have seeds in them. They will be food for you. I have given all the green plants as food for every wild animal, every bird of the air, and every small crawling animal."* And it happened. God looked at everything He had made, and it was *VERY* good. Evening passed, and morning came. This was the sixth day.

7. CLOSING BLESSING:

Lord, bless us with a greater picture of who you have created us to be. You have a plan and a purpose for each of us – may you reveal that powerfully in our lives this week

IMAGE SERIES VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NIRV

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."



CREATED IN HIS IMAGE:
To be God's ambassadors and represent Him while carrying out His plan.

SURPRISINGLY SPECIAL

1 Samuel 16:6-13a

1. OPENING:

Share a time when you were surprised because you were chosen for something.

2. BACKGROUND:



3. TELL:



4. RETELL:

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

Musical Chairs: Make a circle of chairs (facing out) for each person in your group (minus one). When the music starts, the students start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop

BACKGROUND:

In this series we are talking about being created in God's image. An image is to be just like something; it's a reflection of that thing as though you were seeing it in a mirror. To be created in God's image is to be a reflection of Him so others can see who God is, what He is like, what is valuable to Him and how we are all part of His plan.

Our story has a king, a prophet and a shepherd. We all know what kings are, Prophets spoke to the people on God's behalf and shepherds took care of animals. They were usually looked down on and not thought to be very important.

Right before our Bible Story begins, there is a king named Saul who makes choices that sound good to him, but are not what God is asking him to do. He continues to disobey and so God sends Samuel the prophet out to a specific family with lots of sons. Samuel knows that only one of them will be the next king. Let's see what God is looking for when finding a leader for His people.

BIBLE STORY:

When they arrived, Samuel saw the oldest son, and he thought, "Surely the Lord has appointed this person standing here before him."

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't look at how handsome or how tall he is, because I have not chosen him. God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart."

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the music, everyone quickly finds a chair. The final person standing shares a portion of the story. No students are eliminated. No chairs are removed. Continue doing this until the entire story is retold.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- What did you like about today's story?
- If you were picking someone to be king, what would you look for? What do you think God was looking for?
- How do you think David felt about being in fields alone while his brothers were at home with their dad?
- Is there an area in your life where you feel left out or overlooked right now?
- God had a plan and was preparing David for something bigger than David could ever imagine. What might God be choosing and preparing you for?
- This story tells me that God is _____.

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

- When God sees me, He sees _____.
- What does God choosing David teach me, so I can look more like Him and reflect Him to other people?
- Is there someone you know that has been given a false label or image that makes them feel overlooked? Does God want you (your class or your family) to respond to it somehow?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Jesse had seven of his sons pass by Samuel. But Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen any of these."

Then he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

Jesse answered, "I still have the youngest son. He is out taking care of the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him. We will not sit down to eat until he arrives."

So, Jesse sent and had his youngest son brought in. He was a fine boy, tanned, and handsome.

The Lord said to Samuel, "Go, appoint him, because he is the one."

So, Samuel took the container of olive oil and poured it on Jesse's youngest son to appoint him in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Lord's Spirit worked in David.

7. CLOSING BLESSING:

Lord, bless us with the understanding that no matter what others may think, you have uniquely created us to be just like you – and that is an AWESOME thing!!!

IMAGE SERIES VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NIRV

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."



CREATED IN HIS IMAGE:

To be God's ambassadors and represent Him while carrying out His plan.

RIGHT PLACE
RIGHT TIME
Esther (Crafted)

1. OPENING:

Has there ever been a moment when you felt like you were in just the right place at just the right time?

2. BACKGROUND:



3. TELL:



4. RETELL:

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.

Wire & Clay: Use these or other available craft items to build and retell the Bible story.

BACKGROUND:

There are several people whom we are going to meet in our story today. Esther was an orphan and lived with her cousin Mordecai. They were refugees because they had been captured and taken from Israel to Persia. Since they were Jews, they continued to practice the laws and customs that God had given them which were different than the Persian people.

The King of Persia was Xerxes and in looking for a wife, he selected Esther because of her beauty. The King was tricked into writing a law that on a certain day, all the Jewish people would be killed.

BIBLE STORY:

The King's orders to have all the Jews killed went throughout the land. There was great sadness among the Jewish people and they fasted and wept loudly. Mordecai went to see Esther but could only go to the King's gate - he was not allowed to go any further. Word got to Esther about her uncle's sadness which made her upset and afraid. Esther wanted to know what was bothering him.

Mordecai sent a message to Esther and sent her a copy of the order for all the Jewish people to be killed on a certain day. Mordecai challenged Esther to go into the King's presence to beg for mercy and plead for their people.

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5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- What did you like most about the story?
- Imagine what it was like for Esther. She lost her parents. Had to live in a foreign country. Then gets selected to be the Queen. Now she has to put her life at risk to save her family and her people. What was she thinking and feeling? What would you have done if you were in her place?
- What does this story tell us about being our role as an ambassador for God and carrying out His plan?
- Have you ever felt out of place or like you didn't belong? How can knowing God placed you there, give you courage?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

- God has placed me _____ where I can be an ambassador for Him. I can do this by _____.
- What does God placing Esther where and when He did teach me, so I can be ready to be used for His purposes to love and serve others?
- Is there someone you know that has been given a false label or image that makes them feel out of place? Does God want you (your class or your family) to respond to it somehow?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

When Esther heard what Mordecai was asking of her, she sent him back this message: "Everyone knows that no one can enter the King's presence without being called. There is a law that anyone who enters must be put to death unless the King invites them in. I have not been called into the King's presence in 30 days."

When Mordecai received this answer, he responded back: "Just because you live in the King's palace don't think you will escape death. If you keep silent at this time, someone else will help and save the Jewish people but you and your father's family will die. Who knows, maybe you have become queen for such a time as this."

Esther sent back this message: "Go and gather all the Jewish people. Fast for me. Do not eat or drink for 3 days and I will do the same. Then I will go to the King even though it is against the law and if I must die, I am willing to die."

Esther came up with a plan that saved the Jewish people. She did go before the King who allowed her to approach his throne and eventually the law was changed and the Jewish people were saved. At the same time every year, the Jewish people celebrate a holiday called Purim which celebrates what Esther had done at "such a time as this."

7. CLOSING BLESSING:

Lord, You have created each of us for a special purpose. Thank You for caring so much for us that you place us in the right place, for Your purposes. Give us the courage to be brave enough to try when the opportunity comes for us to do what is right.

IMAGE SERIES VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NIRV

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."



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WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

Daniel 3:13-28

1. OPENING:

Share about a time when your thoughts (or what you wanted to do) was different than everyone else around you.

2. BACKGROUND:



3. TELL:



4. RETELL:

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.

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 are created in God's image, that's why our identity is found in Him. When representing God and carrying out His plan, sometimes we have to stand alone. The Bible tells us that we should only worship God, bowing our knee only to Him and that we should not make any objects or idols to worship.

In the 6th Century BC Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon. He made a gold statute that was 90 feet high and told everyone to bow before this idol. Three Jewish men that worked in the king's courts refused. They loved God and stood firm and would not bow down to it.

BIBLE STORY:

Nebuchadnezzar became very angry and called for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When they were brought to the king, he said, *"Is it true that you do not serve my gods nor worship the gold statue I have set up? In a moment you will hear the sound of the musical instruments. If you bow down and worship the statue I made, that will be good. But if you do not worship it, you will immediately be thrown into the blazing furnace. What god will be able to save you from my power then?"*

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, saying, *"We do not need to defend ourselves to you. If you throw us into the furnace, the God we serve is able to save us. He will save us from your power. But even if God does not save us, we want you to know this: We will not serve your gods, or worship the gold statue you have set up."*

Nebuchadnezzar was furious with them! He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. He commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, (CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What did you notice about what it takes to follow God? (*even if God does not save us*)
- Reviewing the full story. How do you think the three men felt at each step?
- What changes did you see happen in the king? How did God use the three men to help make this happen?
- Are there situations you are facing now where you need to stand firm in what you believe because everyone is feeling or acting different than you?
- What does this story tell us about how we can relate to God or about how God relates to us?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

- When God sees me, He sees _____.
- What does God's protection over the three men (and their confidence in Him) teach me, so I can look more like Him and reflect Him to other people?
- Is there someone you know that has been made fun of, left out, or punished because they are standing firm for what God says is right? Does God want you (your class or your family) to respond to it somehow?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

So, they were tied up and thrown in while still wearing their robes, trousers, turbans, and other clothes. The king's command was very strict, and the furnace was made so hot that the flames killed the soldiers who threw them into the furnace. Firmly tied, the three fell into the blaze. When King Nebuchadnezzar looked in, he was shocked and jumped to his feet.

He asked his advisors, "*Didn't we tie up only three men and throw them into the fire?*"

They answered, "*Yes, O king.*"

The king said, "*Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They are not tied up, and they are not burned. The fourth man looks like a son of the gods.*"

The king went to the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "*Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, come out! Servants of the Most High God, come here!*"

So, they came out of the fire. When they came out, the leaders crowded around them and saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies. Their hair was not burned, their robes were not burned, and they didn't even smell like smoke!

The king said, "*Praise the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Their God has sent his angel and saved his servants from the fire! These three men trusted their God and refused to obey my command. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god other than their own.*"

7. CLOSING BLESSING:

Lord, bless us with confidence and courage to stay strong remembering that we are created in your image. May we not bow down and worship anything or anyone but You.

IMAGE SERIES VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NIRV

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."



CREATED IN HIS IMAGE:
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IDENTITY CRISIS

Luke 15:11-24

1. OPENING:

Tell us something that you are really looking forward to and why.

2. BACKGROUND:



3. TELL:



4. RETELL:

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.

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

BACKGROUND:

Jesus used stories called *PARABLES* to illustrate God's love and the Kingdom of God. Jesus told the parable we will hear today because there were some people who were mad at Jesus because they thought he spent too much time with people they saw as bad, sinners, and not worthy to be around. Jesus was representing the Father and showing how He loves everyone.

In this story, it is important to know that children it was very offensive for a child to ask for their inheritance before a parent passed away – it was like saying you wish they were dead. Also, the Jewish people never had anything to do with pigs!

BIBLE STORY:

A man had two sons. The younger son said, "*Give me my share of the property.*" So, the father divided the property between his sons.

Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and traveled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living. After he had spent everything, a time came when there was no food anywhere in the country, and the son was poor and hungry.

So, he got a job with one of the citizens there who sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. The son became so hungry even the pig's food started to look good to him, but no one would give him anything to eat.

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5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you in this story?
- Go back through the story and have the students review each person's choices. What happened due to their choices? What other choices were available?
- In what ways have I acted like the son?
- In what ways does the father reflect God?
- Why do you think the father responded the way he did, even after the son had done so many things wrong?
- Some lies I see my friends believing or I find myself believing are _____. The truth is _____.
- From this story, I now believe God is _____.

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

- When God sees me, He sees _____.
- What does God's love and compassion toward people that have made bad choices teach me, so I can look more like Him and reflect Him to other people?
- Is there someone you know that has been given a false label or image that makes them feel like they've gone too far to be loved again? Does God want you (your class or your family) to respond to it somehow?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

When he realized what he was doing, he thought, *"All of my father's servants have plenty of food, but I am here, almost dying with hunger. I will leave and return to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but let me be like one of your servants.'" So, the son left and went to his father.*

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with love and compassion. So, the father ran to him and hugged and kissed him.

The son said, *"Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."*

But before the son could finish, the father said to his servants, *"Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get our fat calf and kill it so we can have a feast and celebrate. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!"*

So, the celebration began.

7. CLOSING BLESSING:

Thank you, Lord, for the love You have for each of us. Thank you, Lord, that we are never "too far gone" and that you treat us with compassion when we repent and turn back to You!

IMAGE SERIES VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NIRV

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."



CREATED IN HIS IMAGE:

To be God's ambassadors and represent Him while carrying out His plan.

**SEEKING
TO SERVE**
John 13:4-8, 12-17

1. OPENING:

What is the chore at your house that everyone tries to avoid doing and why?

2. BACKGROUND:



3. TELL:



4. RETELL:

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

Balloon or Ball Toss: Have the students 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.

BACKGROUND:

Jesus knows that He is in the final days of His life and will be leaving soon. People have celebrated Him on what we call Palm Sunday and now He is having his last meal with his disciples, his followers, at the Last Supper. This meal was a big feast called Passover, where the Jewish people celebrate how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

Jesus' entire life was all part of God's plan for Jesus to represent the Father to everyone. He demonstrated God's amazing love and set the example for us. Now we can represent Jesus by continuing what He started and freely living into our true identity. We are created in God's image and He wants us to recognize that everyone else is also.

At some point in the lesson, it would be helpful to re-watch the Image of God Video:

<https://vimeo.com/458157308/7a44b84917>

BIBLE STORY:

During the Passover meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing. Taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist. Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the disciples' dirty feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "*Lord, are you going to wash my dirty feet?*"

Jesus answered, "*You don't understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later.*"

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5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

- What did you feel was the most important part of today's story?
- What happened, or what was said, in the story that surprised you?
- If Jesus did everything according to the plan of the Father, what purpose was there in washing the disciples' feet?
- Serving others causes us to see other people as equals to us. It's part of being created in His image. If God were to tell you to serve, who comes to mind that would be hard to serve? Why is that?
- After hearing the story, how might it change how you view yourself? How you view others?
- Through this story, I learned that Jesus is _____.

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

- When God sees me, He sees _____.
- This story tells us that Jesus was an example of what it means to serve others. How can I look more like Him and reflect Him to other people?
- Is there someone you know that has been given a false label or image that makes them feel like they don't deserve help or to be served? Does God want you (your class or your family) to respond to it somehow?

BIBLE STORY (Continued)

Peter said, *"No, you will never wash my feet."*

Jesus answered, *"If I don't wash your feet, you are not one of my people."*

When he had finished washing their dirty feet, he put on his clothes and sat down again. He asked, *"Do you understand what I have just done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that is what I am. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your dirty feet, you also should wash each other's dirty feet. I did this as an example so that you should do as I have done for you.*

I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

7. CLOSING BLESSING:

Lord, may we see everyone in the same way You see us – created specially in Your image. Bless each of us with a heart's desire to serve one another as You have served us.

IMAGE SERIES VERSE: 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 NIRV

So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God! For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

It is important to retell the Bible story after it's been told. Students engage in the story through retelling activities and it helps them in learning it well enough that they can retell it to someone else. Teaching others creates the greatest degree of retention.

The retell activities should be fun and engage the student in the story. Listed below are various ways to retell a Bible story using varied engagement strategies. One way not listed, if the children have Bibles, is to have them open them and re-read the story, perhaps even using different translations. 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:** Students can draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each student share their pictures with the rest of the group.
- **Group Poster:** Students work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the students to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.
- **Story Parts:** Students select a certain scene of the story to draw. Have the students put the story in order by the drawings that have been made and retell it as a group.
- **Comic Strip:** Students fold a piece of paper into 4-8 sections. For each scene or action in the Bible story, students draw a picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story.
- **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 student needs to draw what they have been given until someone guesses what it is.
- **Tee Shirt Design:** Have each student 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 students draw it. You can use this simple picture as a way of reviewing the different Bible stories in weeks to come.
- **Book Cover Design:** Students design and draw their own book cover with words and pictures that best capture the different parts of the Bible story.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

DRAMA / PERFORMANCE

- **Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the students. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two students 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 students are very familiar with and then change the words so it retells the Bible story.
- **Partners:** Have the students get into smaller groups of 2-3. Each student 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.
- **Pantomime:** Divide the group into several smaller groups. Have one act out the first part of the story without using words. The other groups have to say what is happening. Rotate groups and continue until the story is complete
- **Objects:** Give each group 1-3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects, but must use the 3 objects given to them.
- **Human Slide Show:** Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two students will hold it up and then drop it when you tell them. Pick several students to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the students 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 the story is retold.
- **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 10 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 & Descriptions

GAMES

- **Musical Chairs:** Make a circle of chairs (facing out) for each person in your group (minus one). When the music starts, the students start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone quickly finds a chair. The final person standing shares a portion of the story. No students are eliminated. No chairs are removed. Continue doing this until the entire story is retold.
 - **Ball Game:** Identical to Musical Chairs, but played by passing a ball or balloon. Can be played with music or simply the words, “GO” and “STOP”. (using a balloon...try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it to increase the fun)
 - **Rope Game:** Identical to Musical Chairs, but the string moves, not the students. Using a long piece of string/rope, tie the ends together to form a loop. Students stand in a circle with everyone holding the rope. They will move the rope in one direction until you say “STOP”. The student closest to the knot, shares the next part of the story.
 - **Movers & Shakers:** Spice up the games by adding a feature to HOW they tell their portion of the story!!! Some examples could be:
 - In a low voice
 - In a high voice while jogging in place
 - In a whisper while tiptoeing
 - In a robot voice while doing the robot
- **Line Up:** Have the students line up in height order. Starting with the tallest, share the story sections until complete.
- **Hide and Seek:** Write phrases of the Bible Story on cards or strips of paper. Place them around the room. Send the students to find them all and then place themselves in the proper order. Have someone read and retell the story.
- **Story Chase:** Write each part of the story on small cards. Randomly tape one card on the back of each student. Have them assemble the story on their own without removing the card. They should line up so that each student can see the phrase in front of them. Have the student retell the story by reading the card on the person in front of them.

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.***

1. What were you imagining as the story was being told? How did it make you feel?
2. Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell as the story was told?
3. What stood out to you in the story?
4. What was God/Jesus teaching them in this story?
5. Where in previous stories have we seen God do this?
6. Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories?
7. Was there anything that was difficult or hard to understand?
8. How did the story describe God's/Jesus's relationship with people?
9. How does God/Jesus respond to the people in the story? What does this show us?
10. How did God/Jesus respond when ... ?
11. How did people respond ... ?
12. What was God/Jesus teaching or showing them in this event?
13. What is something you learned today about ...
 - a. God?
 - b. Jesus?
 - c. This story?
 - d. What it means to follow Jesus?
 - e. Yourself?
14. What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made?
15. How are the characters alike or different in the story?

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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 it relate to my life?
I want to LOVE God through His Word.***

1. What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
2. What feelings did you have as you heard the story? How would you have felt if ... ?
3. What did you imagine as you were listening to the story?
4. What did you wonder about when the story was being told?
5. What feelings do you think motivated ... ?
6. What do you think was going on in ...'s heart and mind in this story?
7. What surprised you or amazed you about today's story?
8. Which character in today's story do you most relate to?
9. What do you feel is really important to God/Jesus? To the character?
10. In what ways are we also like ...? In what ways are we different?
11. After hearing the story, how might it change how you view yourself?
12. Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
13. What is something you never realized before today?
14. What is the most interesting thing you heard today?
15. How did this story challenge you or encourage you?

(CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)

Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Hands (Actions)

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

What does God want me, specifically, to do with what I've learned?

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

1. What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to make a change in your life?
2. From what you learned today, what is God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit asking you to do?
3. What do you think God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is saying to you?
4. What should you do differently because of today's story? What difference will this make in how you love and serve Him?
5. What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story? How can you put this insight into practice this week?
6. How should we respond to God/Jesus today?
7. After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
8. 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?
9. Who can you share this story with this week?
10. How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?



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