



kids around the world™



**KIDStory™**

# Bible App Lessons

*"Generations after generation stands in awe of (God's) work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts."*

Psalm 145:4 (MSG)

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# Bible App for Kids Lessons

## KIDStory Overview

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There are 4 core attributes that define what KIDStory is about. You will find these attributes woven throughout the various KIDStory resources, including the lessons found in this book. The lessons are created with these 4 things in mind:

- **Fun** ... Because it needs to stick. Children of all ages enjoy and remember things when they are having fun. When you make it fun, they will want to come back for more.
- **Relational** ... We are in this together. The end result is that we want children to be drawn closer to the Lord through a relationship with Jesus Christ. This can happen as you build a relationship with them and they develop friendships with one another. Discipleship, as Jesus modeled with his disciples, happens when these relationships are made possible. The *Response Question* at the end of each lesson allows you to discover what God is showing each child which you can follow up on.
- **Reproducible** ... Keep it simple and practical so you can multiply. Children can learn the Bible stories and be encouraged to tell them to others. The KIDStory strategy is easily transferrable so other leaders and children's ministries can be developed.
- **Spirit Led** ... Listen for His leading. The Holy Spirit is who brings about life transformation. Listen to Him as you prepare, facilitate and follow-up on each of the lessons.

The lessons in this book are written in conjunction with the Bible App for Kids (<https://www.bible.com/kids>) and Lifechurch.tv preschool curriculum (<https://open.church/preschool>). Both are free for you to access and use. The Bible App has various fun activities that can be used as you tell or retell the Bible Story. They also have other Bible Stories than we have here and they are continually developing more. The 24 stories are part of the preschool curriculum for Lifechurch.tv. They have other free downloadable suggestions and activities on their website.

OneHope is an international children's ministry that developed the Bible App along with YouVersion. They also have free downloadable material which you can encourage parents to follow-up with the lessons. (<http://onehope.net/feature/parentresources>)

These lessons can be used with any aged child but were written with the younger children in mind. The storylines are taken from the Bible App for Kids and though Biblically accurate, they are crafted so longer stories can be learned. As you get to know the group you are leading, you can determine what might work best with them. Try different things .... remembering to have FUN as you do! The more you get into the story and the activities, the more the children will want to participate. Let the ideas here spark your creativity to come up with other ideas that may prove to be better.

For more information on Kids Around the World and KIDStory, contact us online at: [http://www.kidsaroundtheworld.com/?page\\_id=57](http://www.kidsaroundtheworld.com/?page_id=57) or "Like" us on Facebook (KIDStory Trainers) to network with others utilizing the KIDStory materials.

# KIDStory Lesson Format

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The following are the different components of a KIDStory lesson. Each lesson would have these basic components that naturally lead from one to another.

- **Review:** It is always helpful to review previous lessons and to see if the children have applied what God showed them in the previous weeks. This way they continue to see how their story is part of God's Story and how one story is connected to the others.
- **Opening:** This is an opening time for people to engage with one another and to tell personal stories. It could be an activity or question that is not directly tied to the story but would start leaning people in that direction.
- **Background:** Is there a pre-story statement that you have prepared to get the people ready for the story? Is there background information they need to have to better understand the story or a transition from the last story to this one?
- **Tell the Story:** It is critical to let the audience know that the story comes from the Bible and that it is true. People should have their Bibles closed at this time and stay focused on the story and the storyteller.
- **Retell:** It is important that different activities are done so the children begin learning the story so they can re-tell it to friends and family members. If the children can read, have them re-read the story from the Bible if they have one. Someone can read the story or the leader can ask sequential questions which everyone then answers by looking at the story. You might also use other activities to engage the participants individually or as a group such as: the KIDS storyboard, a game, a song or an art activity.
- **Discover & Response Questions:** Asking the questions and being able to talk about the story is critical in the learning process! We are accustomed to teaching the facts about a story without talking about the feelings and the heart level. A leader should move the group from remembering some of the facts to what God is doing in their heart and life. In the Response, there should be a question or two where you are praying for the Holy Spirit to speak to each person in your group. Most curriculum have one application that the lesson is driving towards. It is different with storying. We want the Spirit to speak to each person for the implication that will be for them. It will not be uncommon to have many different responses from your group members. This is good! Follow-up in the weeks to come to see how each person is doing in their obedience to what God said.

# In the Beginning

## Genesis 1:1-24

Creation of the World

### REVIEW

This may be your first time meeting the children in your small group. Spend some time getting to know one another. Maybe share some favorite things you each like.

### OPENING

What is something you have made that you really like?

### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

### PERSONAL RETELL

**Drawing:** If you are able, have the children draw their favorite things that God has created. After doing so, go back through the story and determine which day of creation God would have made them. If drawing utensils are not available, take some things from the outdoors and make things with them or make your drawings in the dirt.

You can also assign the different days of Creation to different children and have them draw something from that day to be shared with the group.

### BACKGROUND

God has always been around. He is the Almighty Creator - the King of everything. He had certain people write down all that has happened so people would know Him and learn how to follow Him. What follows is the story of how God created the world we live in. Use your imagination as we briefly tell His Story!

### STORY

*In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth. God moved over the darkness and said, "Light!" He called the light "Day" and He called the darkness "Night." God said, "This is good!" Day One!*

*Then God made a space to separate the waters above from the waters below. He called the space "Sky." This is good! Day Two!*

*God gathered the waters together, and dry ground appeared. He called the ground "Land" and the waters "Seas." Then he made plants like grass, grain and trees. This is good! Day Three!*

*Then God made lights in the sky. He made the sun for the day, the moon for the night, and all the stars. Day Four!*

*(Continued on the next page)*

### TIP

**Use Objects:** This story has many places where you can use different objects to show as you tell the story. This helps the story be more visible to the children.

## Genesis 1:1-24

*God made fish to swim in the waters and birds to fly in the sky. "Have babies," He told them. "Fill the world with splashing and singing." This is good! Day 5!*

*Next, God made the animals for the land. He made farm animals, wild animals and animals that crawl on the ground. "Just one more thing to make," God said, "the most special thing of all." So, in His image, God made man and woman. He made Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. Eve was made from Adam and God placed them in the Garden of Eden to live. "Have babies," He said. "Take charge of the world. Care for the fish, the birds and the animals." This is good! Day Six.*

*Then God looked at everything He had made. "It's very good! He said. So on the seventh day He rested and made that day special. Day Seven!*

## IN THE BEGINNING



### Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

### Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, we recognize you as the Great Creator. Thank you for making each child the way they are: the color of their hair and eyes, how big and small they are; for the many things they are able to do. Bless them with a heart of thanksgiving for all you have done for each of us!



# The First Sin

## Genesis 3:1-24

### The Fall

#### REVIEW

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

#### OPENING

Share a time when you really wanted to do something but you knew someone would get mad if you did it.

#### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#### PERSONAL RETELL

**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 each one 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. When you say "GO" the children start moving the rope till you say "STOP."

#### BACKGROUND

There are a couple of things that will be helpful for the children to know for this lesson. One of the most powerful angels that God created, along with some other angels, started a war against God. God is more powerful than anything and sent this angel, the devil, out of Heaven. The devil, or sometimes known as Satan, is always trying to get people to disobey God. When God first created Adam and Eve, there was just one thing that He asked them to obey. They were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

#### STORY

*The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, lived in a beautiful garden that God made for them. But Satan came as a crafty serpent and tempted Adam and Eve. "Did God say you must not eat the fruit from these trees?" the serpent asked Eve. "Just the tree in the middle," Eve replied. "If we eat from it, we'll die."*

*You won't die!" said the serpent. "There's a reason why God doesn't want you to eat from that tree. If you do, you'll be like Him. You'll know what He knows!"*

*Eve ate the fruit. She gave some to Adam, who was with her. He ate it, too. And at once, they knew things they had never known before. One thing they knew was that they did not have clothes on! They sewed leaves together to cover themselves. They'd never felt fear or shame before, so they knew something was wrong.*

#### TIP

When you craft a story, sometimes you might choose to not tell certain parts of the story. Things like long lists of names and lots of places may distract the children from the main part of the story. When you do this you still want to stay Biblically accurate.

*“Adam!” God called. “Eve!”*

*“We’re hiding,” Adam said. “We’re naked.” “You know that because you ate from the tree,” God sighed.*

*Then Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. God said, “Serpent, you must crawl on your belly. A woman’s son will defeat you. Eve, childbirth will be painful. Adam, growing food will be difficult.” Then God made clothes for Adam and Eve and sent them out of the garden. He put an angel with a flaming sword there so they could not return.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today’s story?

Who were the different people in today’s story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God’s Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today’s story?

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today’s Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Read I Samuel 12:14 and then pray over the children: Lord, bless these children with a heart that wants to obey and follow You every day. When they are tempted to do things that would not please You, may they remember this verse and desire to choose to follow you.





# Two by Two

## Genesis 6:5-9:17

### Noah's Ark

#### REVIEW

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

#### OPENING

Have each child share what their favorite animal is and which one they are the most scared of.

#### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#### PERSONAL RETELL

**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

See how many children have seen a rainbow in the sky. Let them describe what they had seen. Let them know that they are going to discover when the first rainbow appeared in the sky so to listen carefully.

#### STORY

*The earth filled up with people, but they sinned so much that God was sorry He had made them. He decided to send a flood to wash away everyone on earth. There was a man named Noah who wasn't like the others. Noah loved God and obeyed Him. God decided to save Noah and his family from the flood.*

*God warned Noah about the flood. He told him to build an enormous boat with a low roof, three decks, a window and a door. In obedience, Noah built it. God told Noah to collect two of every kind of animal. One male, one female. Then Noah, his family and the animals went into the boat. God shut the door.*

(Continued on the next page)

#### TIP

Using objects in the telling of your story will help bring the story to life. There do not have to be too many nor very elaborate, but doing so will help the lesson come to life.

*It rained for 40 days and nights. Water fell from the sky and rose from the oceans and lakes. Even the tallest mountains disappeared beneath the flood. Meanwhile, Noah, his family and all the animals were safe in the boat, floating on the floodwaters. God had not forgotten Noah, not even for a moment.*

*God sent a wind to blow. The waters went down. The boat rested on mountain where Noah sent out a dove. When it didn't return, he knew it was safe. When the ground was dry, God told them to come out. He put a rainbow in the sky as a promise that He would never flood the whole earth again.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, may these children be like Noah who want to love You and obey You. May You bless them with a desire to keep following you all the days of their lives.



# Abraham's Big Test

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-7; 22:1-19

Abraham and Isaac

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

What is something that is really special to you? What would you do if you had to share it with someone though you really did not want to? How would you feel and what would you do if they broke it?!

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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.

## BACKGROUND

God choose a man named Abraham, that he and the children he would have - and the children they would have - to start a nation that God would bless and God would call His special people. These families that would come from Abraham are called descendants. Abraham was very old when God made a promise to him about having a son that these families would come from. He was 75 when God first told Abraham and this promise came true 25 years later!! Abraham was known as God's friend because he trusted and obeyed God. Also know that a sacrifice is giving up something very special to you

## STORY

*God promised Abraham a son and from that son many descendants would come who would bless the whole world. But Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were too old to have children. Twenty five years went by. Still, Abraham trusted God's promise. When he was 99 and Sarah was 89, God reminded them of His promise. Sarah was going to have a baby!*

*When Sarah heard this, she laughed! "I am too old to have a baby!" God heard her laugh and told them to name their son, Isaac which means, "he laughs."*

*When Isaac was a boy, God tested Abraham by telling him to take Isaac to Mount Moriah and give him as a sacrifice to God. Abraham was confused but still he trusted God. Isaac carried the wood and Abraham held the knife and the torch. Together they climbed the mountain.*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP

**WORDS:** Make sure to use words that the children will know and define the ones that might be unfamiliar to them. Because this lesson is for younger children, we used the word "sacrifice" instead of "kill" and defined it in the Introduction.

*"Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" asked Isaac. "God will provide it," Abraham replied.*

*Abraham arranged the wood on an altar, tied up Isaac and laid him on the wood. As he raised the knife to kill Isaac, an angel called his name: "Abraham! Don't hurt the boy! God knows you trust His promise. Look, there in the bushes. A ram is caught by its horns. Sacrifice that instead."*

*So Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of his son. He called the place "God will Provide," because God provided the sacrifice. Just as God had said, His promise came true.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

As Abraham trusted and obeyed God and became known as Your friend, I pray that these children would trust and obey You and You would bless them and call them Your friends.



# The Dreamer

Genesis 37; 39:1-6

*Joseph is Sold Into Slavery*

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Describe a dream that you have had.

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL 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.

## BACKGROUND

Isaac grows up, gets married and has a family of his own. He has two sons named Jacob and Esau. Jacob receives the blessing from Isaac and he too, grows up and has his own family. Joseph is one of the last sons to be born to Isaac.

## STORY

*Jacob had 12 sons, but he loved his son Joseph the most. He gave Joseph a special, brightly colored coat. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They hated him. Joseph also had special dreams. "In my dream we were tying up bundles of wheat and your bundles bowed down to mine!" Joseph told them. Joseph's brothers hated him even more.*

*Joseph had another dream. "The sun, the moon and 11 stars bowed down before me." His father and brothers grumbled. "Are you saying you will rule over us?"*

*One day, Joseph's brothers were in the fields watching their sheep. They saw him coming to see them. They planned to kill him and put an end to all his dreams. "It would be wrong to kill our brother," said Reuben. "Let's throw him in this empty well." So they tore off Joseph's special coat and threw him into the well.*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP

Everyone wants to be known and appreciated. There are some simple things you can do to make this possible with your children. Get to know them by name, what their interests are and simply asking what special thing happened to them this past week.

*Some traders came by on their way to Egypt. "Let's sell Joseph as a slave to them!" So the brothers sold Joseph for 20 pieces of silver. The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in goat's blood and showed it to their father, Jacob. "My son is dead!" he wept. Meanwhile, Joseph was taken to Egypt. But God was with Joseph.*

*In Egypt, the traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of the Pharaoh's captains. God blessed Joseph and made him successful. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole household.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Pray over each child that their minds and hearts would stay on Jesus Christ. Bless them with thoughts that remain clean and pure. Lord, continue to pour out your Spirit on these children so they might have your dreams and visions.



# Dreams Come True

## Genesis 39-45

### Joseph's Rise to Power

#### REVIEW

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

#### OPENING

Share a time when someone was really mean to you.

#### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#### PERSONAL 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.

#### BACKGROUND

Isaac had a son named Jacob and Jacob had 12 sons, his favorite being Joseph. He gave Joseph a special coat that was made of many colors. Joseph had some dreams which showed that Jacob and the other brothers would bow down to Joseph. When Joseph told them these dreams, they began to hate Joseph. One day Jacob told Joseph to go bring his brothers some lunch. They decided this was the time to get rid of Joseph and sold him as a slave to some men from Egypt. They then told their father that some animal had killed their brother and it seemed that Joseph would be separated from his family forever. God had other plans. Joseph got to be a servant of Potiphar, a leader in the Egyptian army.

#### STORY

*Joseph served Potiphar well. Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to sin against God. Joseph refused, so she lied about him. Potiphar believed her and Joseph was thrown into prison. In prison Joseph met two of Pharaoh's servants. They each had dreams and God showed Joseph their meaning. Joseph's explanations came true and for the cupbearer, he was released.*

*Two years later the Pharaoh himself had some troubling dreams. The cupbearer remembered what Joseph had done for him and told Pharaoh. So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him his dreams. God showed Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams.*

(Continued on the next page.)

#### TIP

Leading a small group means you are being a facilitator and not just dumping information onto the children. Ask questions that lead to discussions. We often learn the best when we learn for ourselves rather than being told.

*“For seven years a lot of food will grow,” said Joseph. “So, store up food because seven years of famine will follow.” Pharaoh was impressed by Joseph’s wisdom. So he put Joseph in charge of storing up all the food! Apart from Pharaoh, no one in Egypt was more powerful than Joseph.*

*Joseph’s brothers went to Egypt to buy food. They bowed before Joseph but did not recognize him. When he saw that they had changed, he told them who he was. The brothers were terrified for they thought Joseph would hurt them as they had done to him. “You meant to harm me,” said Joseph, “but God used that for good. Bring all of your family to Egypt. We will have plenty to eat!”*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today’s story?

Who were the different people in today’s story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God’s Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today’s story?

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today’s Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

I pray Lord that you would bless these children with kindness. When someone wants to do something mean to them, help them respond like Joseph did to his brothers and to love that person with God’s love.





# A Baby and A Bush

Exodus 1:6-2:15; 3:1-15; 4:1-17

*Birth of Moses & Burning Bush*

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Share a time when you were able to take care of someone or someone took care of you.

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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

## BACKGROUND

A long time ago, the country of Egypt had leaders they called Pharaoh. They were like a King or our President. The people who were followers of God, the Israelites, lived in Egypt for a long time and now there was a Pharaoh that was very mean to the people and treated them very badly. God was hearing their cries for help and was getting someone ready to help get them free and away from all the terrible things that were happening.

## STORY

*Egypt was filled with Israelites. The new Pharaoh was afraid that they would become too powerful. So he made them slaves and treated them very badly. Pharaoh ordered that all baby Israelite boys had to be killed. One woman put her baby in a basket and hid him by the river's edge. His sister watched him. The Pharaoh's daughter was bathing by the river where she found the baby and decided to keep him. His sister offered their mother's help to care for him. Pharaoh's daughter named him Moses.*

*Moses grew up. One day he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite. Moses killed the Egyptian and then he fled to Midian where he was a shepherd for 40 years.*

*One day Moses was watching his sheep when he heard the voice of God speak from a burning bush. "My people are suffering, Moses. I have chosen you to free them."*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP

Everybody everywhere likes to have fun and play games. You may notice that boys especially like to be active. Use this knowledge when teaching your children and have games be part of your lesson.

*"I can't!" Moses cried. "I'll help you," God promised. "Throw down your staff." Moses did and it turned into a snake. When he picked it back up, it was a staff again. "Put your hand in your cloak," God said. Moses did. When he looked, it was covered with disease. When he did it again, it was healed. "Show Pharaoh that!" God said.*

*"I'm not a good speaker," said Moses. "I will give you the words," God said. "Your brother Aaron can help." So Moses went to tell Pharaoh to "Let my people go so they can worship God!"*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless the children's lips to praise You and to tell others about Jesus. Bless their eyes that they might see You throughout the day. Bless their feet to only go to places you want them to go and their hands to serve You by helping others.



# A Voice in the Night

## I Samuel 1; 2:11; 3

God Speaks to Samuel

### REVIEW

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

### OPENING

If God were to whisper something in your ear, what would you want Him to tell you?

### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

### PERSONAL RETELL

**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

A temple is like a church where the Jewish people would gather to worship God and learn how to be one of His chosen people. The person who was responsible for the temple was the priest. One day Hannah was crying in the temple as she was praying to God because she was still not able to have any children. Eli, the priest, told her that God would give her a son. Hannah said if this happened that she would give her son back to God to faithfully serve Him in the temple. Hannah does have a son named Samuel whom she brings back to serve in the temple like she had promised God.

### STORY

*Hannah was sad because she had no children. She prayed and God gave her a son, Samuel. She was very grateful, so she gave Samuel to God to serve Him.*

*Hannah left her little boy at the temple with Eli, the priest. Samuel helped old, blind Eli. He even slept in the tabernacle while Eli slept in a room nearby.*

*One night, Samuel heard someone call his name. "Samuel." He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am," he said. I didn't call you," grunted Eli. "Go back to bed." Samuel crept back to bed. He heard his name again. "Samuel." Samuel ran back to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "I didn't call you. Go back to bed."*

(Continued on the next page)

### TIP

Remember how old your audience is. Determine what is age appropriate in the stories you select to tell, the words they need to have defined, and how long the story is so they can learn and retell it to others.

*After Samuel heard the voice call out his name a third time, Eli said, it was the Lord. "If He calls again, say, 'Speak Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel did.*

*God spoke, "Samuel, can you be my prophet and pass my words faithfully on to My people?" "I can," he replied. And Samuel did until he was an old man.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Bless the children with a life like Samuel. They would know they are each picked by God to serve Him, to hear His voice and be obedient to the calling God has for each of them. Let the children know they are never too young to serve Him.



# Stones, Slings & Giant Things

## 2 Samuel

David & Goliath

### REVIEW

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

### OPENING

Have each child share a time when they needed to be really brave.

### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

### PERSONAL RETELL

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

### BACKGROUND

David was a shepherd boy whom God had chosen to be the next King of Israel. Being a shepherd allowed David to spend time with God and he wrote the Psalms, some beautiful songs to God. It also helped him be brave because he had to protect the sheep. David loved God so much that he was known as a man after God's own heart.

### STORY

*King Saul did not obey God. So God sent Samuel, the prophet, to Bethlehem. "Find a man named Jesse," God said. "One of his sons will be the new king."*

*Samuel looked at 7 of Jesse's sons. They looked handsome and strong. "Not them," God said. "I don't care about looks. I care about what is in a person's heart."*

*Jesse sent for his youngest son, David, who was tending sheep in the fields. Samuel saw him and God said, "He is the one!" So David was anointed to one day become the new king.*

*Some time later, Israel fought the Philistines. A giant Philistine soldier called Goliath challenged the Israelites to send a champion to fight him. But the Israelites were too afraid.*

(Continued on the next page)

### TIP

The opening is important to allow the children to tell a personal story. It creates an environment where it is safe to share personal thoughts and emotions. Create questions and activities which allow the children to share more than "yes" and "no" responses.

David brought food to his brothers in the army. He heard Goliath's challenge and was not afraid. "How dare he defy God's army? I will fight him!" exclaimed David. Surprised, King Saul offered David his armor. After trying it on and seeing that it was too big, David said, "No! God helped me kill the wild beasts. He will help me against Goliath, too!" David took five stones and a sling.

"Am I a dog?" Goliath roared. "You send this stick of a boy to fight me!" David responded back, "You have a spear, but I have the help of Israel's God!" David put a stone into the sling and threw it. It struck Goliath's forehead and knocked him down. The Israelites defeated the Philistines. With God's help, David was a hero!



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless these children with boldness and courage to face whatever giants they may be facing. You are with us. You are bigger and stronger than any giant and You will help each of us to knock down the things that stand between You and us.



# A Roaring Rescue

## Daniel 6:16-23

*Daniel in the Lion's Den*

### REVIEW

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

### OPENING

Have each child share what their favorite animal is and which one they are the most scared of.

### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

### PERSONAL RETELL

**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

Daniel was committed to serving and honoring God in everything. The king of Babylon placed Daniel in a very high position in the government. The other leaders were jealous of how the king treated Daniel and so they schemed to get Daniel in trouble. They had the king sign an order that everyone must only pray to him. But, Daniel refused and would only pray to God. These other leaders caught Daniel praying to God just like he always did and they reported his disobedience to the king. The punishment was being thrown into the lion's den.

### STORY

*God's people disobeyed Him; so He let their enemies take them into captivity. They destroyed Jerusalem and carried away many of the Jews to their own country, Babylon.*

*Daniel was one of the Jews in Babylon. He trusted God and prayed to Him three times a day. God blessed Daniel, and he became a powerful leader in that country.*

*Some leaders were jealous of Daniel, so they made a new law. People could only pray to King Darius. Whoever disobeyed would be thrown into a lions' den. Darius agreed. Daniel still prayed to God and was arrested. Darius was sad; he liked Daniel. He realized he'd been tricked but couldn't change the law.*

(Continued on the next page)

### TIP

Have fun! Enjoy your time being with the Lord as you prepare the story and the lesson. Be filled with the joy of the Lord when you are with the children. They will get to experience God's love and passion for them when you do!

## Daniel 6:16-23

*Daniel was thrown to the lions. The lions roared and crept up to Daniel. Then an angel arrived! It was God who sent him. The angel shut the lions' mouths. Daniel spent the night there, unharmed.*

*At daybreak, Darius went to see if Daniel was alive. "God sent an angel to save me," Daniel said. The king was thrilled. Daniel was pulled out of the den. Then King Darius had Daniel's enemies thrown into the den. The lions gobbled them up! King Darius told everyone in his kingdom to honor Daniel's powerful, living God.*

## A Roaring Lion



### Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

### Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, bless these children with the desire to honor You above everything just like Daniel. May they always know of Your love and protection even when things seem to be difficult. Bless them with a desire to pray to You even when others may think it is wrong to do so.





# The Brave & Beautiful Queen

Esther 2-5; 9:20-22  
God Uses Esther

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Have each child share about a party they were invited to.

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

**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.

## BACKGROUND

Esther was an orphan who lived with her uncle Mordecai. They were refugees because they had been captured and taken from Israel to Persia. Because of her beauty, Esther was made Queen when Xerxes selected her to be his wife.

## STORY

*Esther was the Queen of Persia. Even her husband, King Xerxes, didn't know her secret. Esther was Jewish. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, worked at the palace and looked out for her.*

*Xerxes' advisor, Haman received a great reward. He was very proud. Everyone except Mordecai bowed down to him. Haman was insulted. He vowed to kill Mordecai and all the Jews! Haman told King Xerxes that the Jews were dangerous and should die. Xerxes agreed and set a day to kill them. Mordecai was terrified and sent a message to Queen Esther.*

*"Change the King's mind," said Mordecai. "If I go to him without his invitation he can have me killed," Esther replied. "Perhaps you were made Queen just for this moment," said Mordecai.*

*Esther bravely agreed to try. She went to the throne room. King Xerxes was amazed by her beauty and invited her in. "Can we have dinner with Haman?" she asked.*

(Continued on the next page)

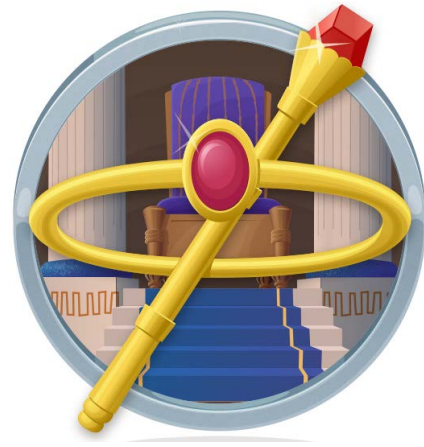
## TIP

If you have a child who wants to answer all your questions, remind them that we need to hear from others because we can learn from everyone.

*Haman was building a big gallows in his back yard. He planned to hang Mordecai on it. Then the King's invitation arrived. So Haman went to the palace for dinner.*

*"A man wants to kill me and my people, the Jews," Esther told Xerxes. "Who would do such a thing?" he asked. "The evil Haman!" Esther cried out. "Haman? Guard! Put him to death."*

*So Haman was hanged on the gallows he'd built for Mordecai. Because of Esther, the Jews were saved! They celebrated with a great feast which they observe to this day.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, You have created each child here for a special purpose. Thank You that You have blessed each child with special gifts and talents. May they use it for your Kingdom and love and serve others with gladness and joy.



# The First Christmas Gift

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18 -25

Jesus is Born

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

What was the best present you ever got? What was so special about it?

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

**Act Out the Story:** There are many characters in this story so it would be a good one to act out. Assign different parts to the children in your group. Have them practice the story a few times to ensure they are retelling it accurately. Then have fun retelling the story.

This story is also found on the Bible for Kids App. It is a creative tool for the telling and retelling of this and other Bible stories.

## BACKGROUND

For many years, God has been preparing to bring His Son, Jesus, to the earth. Just before this story, an old woman, Elizabeth, has a son whom they name, John. He tells the people to turn their hearts back to God. He lets them know that Jesus, their Savior, is coming. Angels are coming to different people. It is very exciting!

## STORY

*The angel, Gabriel, told Mary, "You will have a baby!" "How?" asked Mary. "I'm not married." "God's Holy Spirit will come down to you. The baby will be God's Son." Mary believed him.*

*Mary was engaged to Joseph but he did not believe her story. So an angel visited him, too. "Mary's not lying. Her baby will be God's Son. You must name him, Jesus."*

*Many months passed. Then they traveled to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown, to be counted by the government. After that long journey, Mary was ready to give birth. But all the inns in Bethlehem were full. So God's Son was born in a stable, wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger. They named him Jesus, just like the angel told them to.*

*(Continued on the next page)*

## TIP

This is a long Bible Story. It has been crafted so it can be learned by everyone but it remains Biblically accurate. Have fun with retelling the story and remember to stay Biblically accurate.

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18 -25

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT

*That night, an angel appeared to some shepherds in the hills near Bethlehem and he told them, "Do not be afraid. I have Good News which will be for all the people! Your Savior has been born. He's in Bethlehem, lying in a manger." Suddenly more angels appeared, so many of them that filled skies. "Praise God in Heaven!" they all sang. "And may everyone who pleases Him receive His peace."*

*When the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. They found the baby, their Savior, lying on a bed of hay. It was just as the first angel had said. After the shepherds had seen Jesus, they went through the town. They were very excited! They told everyone what had happened and they praised God for what He had done!*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

**CLOSING  
BLESSING**

Thank you God for sending Jesus to show us Your love. Let these children be like Mary and are willing to do whatever You ask of them. May they be like the shepherds who are so excited about the Good News of Jesus that they have to tell everyone they meet!



kids around the world

# A Test in The Desert

## Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus is Tempted*

### REVIEW

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

### OPENING

Can you think of a time when you really wanted to do something though you knew you were not supposed to do it? What happened?

### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

### PERSONAL RETELL

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

### BACKGROUND

All we know of Jesus' life up to this time is that as a boy he grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man. At the age of twelve he stayed at the Temple and got into conversations with the religious leaders instead of leaving Jerusalem with his family. He has just been baptized and God's Holy Spirit has come upon him. God has an enemy that is always trying to cause people to turn away from God - his name is Satan. Jesus is now 30 years old and he has not sinned but Satan is going to try and change that.

### STORY

*God's Spirit led Jesus into the desert. He had nothing to eat for 40 days and nights. After that, Jesus was very hungry! Knowing that Jesus was hungry, Satan tempted Him. He pointed to a rock and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread." Jesus answered from God's Word, the Bible. "People do not live on just bread," he said. "Their lives also depend on what God says."*

*Next, Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple. "If You are the Son of God, jump off! The Scriptures say that God's angels will rescue you." Once again, Jesus used God's Word, the Bible to give His second answer. "Do not put the Lord your God to the test"*

(Continued on the next page)

### TIP

As a small group leader you want the children to know you care about them. Find out how their week went - discover more about their family, what they like and what they are afraid of. This is part of discipleship

*Finally, Satan took Jesus to a mountain and showed Him all the world's kingdoms and wealth. "This can be yours if you bow down and worship me." "Go away, Satan!" Jesus commanded. Then He quoted God's Word one more time. "For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"*

*As soon as he said it, Satan left Him. Then angels came and cared for Jesus. Jesus had faced much temptation and had not sinned, not even once.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Read Psalm 119:105 Father bless these children by showing them the ways that will please You and bring them closer to You. As they read Your Word may they understand how great and loving you are.



# The King & The Kingdom

## Matthew 5-7

### Sermon on the Mount

#### REVIEW

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

#### OPENING

Share a favorite story. It could be about you or someone else.

#### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#### PERSONAL RETELL

**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

Every country in the world has leaders to follow, laws to obey and common ways that we treat one another. God has a Kingdom that is in Heaven. He wants us to follow Him, His law is to love Him, others and ourselves. That is how we are to treat one another - with love. God wants us to take the ways of the Kingdom of Heaven and live according to them here where we are right now. To teach us how to live this way, Jesus often told stories, called parables. Here is one that He told about living as people of His Kingdom.

#### STORY

*Jesus traveled, teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, and crowds followed Him. They didn't know yet that Jesus is the King, but He taught them how to live as people of His Kingdom. "People do good because of the good in their hearts. People do evil when evil is in their hearts. God wants to make your heart like His heart."*

*"Don't worry about things like food and clothes," Jesus said. "Put God first in your life. Obey Him. Trust Him. He will make sure that you have what you need."*

*Jesus taught this prayer: "Father God, Your name is Holy. Reign on earth like you reign in Heaven. Meet our needs today. Help us obey You. All power is Yours, forever!" Then Jesus told a story.*

*(Continued on the next page)*

#### TIP

Though short in time, the Background is an important part of the lesson. Here is where you can give any information necessary to understand the story to be told. You can also define words the children may need to understand or let them know what has happened right before the story you are about to tell. The Background will help set up the story for you. Make sure it is short as it should take less time than what the story itself will take.

*“One man built his house on a rock. A big storm came. Because the house was built on a rock, it did not fall down. Another man built his house on soft and shifting sand. A big storm came. Because the house was built on sand, it fell down with a crash.”*

*“The things I teach you are like the rock,” said Jesus. “Put my words into action and you will be like the man who builds his house on a rock.”*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Jesus, bless these children with a passion to love and obey You. May their lives be built on a strong foundation and not be ruined when things are difficult. Let us be a people that trust and honor You. Thank You for taking care of us as You are a kind and merciful God.





# Through The Roof

**Luke 5:17-26**

*Healing the Paralyzed Man*

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Choose some children to have disabilities (blindness, can't walk, can't use their arms, can't speak, deaf, etc) and the other children have to help them do something. Have the children share what it was like to have a disability and the other children share what it was like to help them.

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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

## BACKGROUND

Jesus has been teaching the people about how to follow God. They are amazed at what He is saying. Sick people are coming to him and Jesus prays for them and they become better. Listen carefully to the story about Jesus healing a man that could not walk.

## STORY

*One day Jesus was teaching the people. The religious leaders and teachers who had come from all over Israel were there too. The Lord was giving Jesus the power to heal people. Some men came to see Jesus and they were carrying a man on his mat since he was paralyzed and could not walk. They tried to get into the house so they could put the man in front of Jesus but it was too crowded and they could not get in. So they climbed up on the roof and cut a hole in the ceiling right above Jesus. They lowered the mat with the man on it down so he was in the middle of the crowd and in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*Some of the teachers and religious leaders that were there thought to themselves, "Who is this man who is speaking as if he were God? Only God can forgive sins."*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP: The Power of a Smile

A smile is contagious! When you smile, it means you are glad to be with someone. Children will want to be with you, hear what you have to say and what you believe about Jesus when you make your class a place where everyone is welcome, known and loved! You can start that with a smile.

*But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier to say: ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and walk’? But I will prove to you that God has given me authority on earth to forgive sins.” So Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, stand up, take your mat, and go home.”*

*At once the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home and the whole time he was praising God! All the people were fully amazed and began to praise God too. They were filled with much wonder and awe and said, “Today we have seen amazing things!”*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord bless these children with compassion that they would bring their sick friends to you, expecting you to heal them. Bless them with an increased faith and trust in You; that you forgive our sins and heal our bodies.



# Demons Destroyed

Mark 5:1-20

*Jesus Deliver People from Demons*

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Share a time when something or someone really scared you

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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

## BACKGROUND

In the beginning, God created the angels, or sometimes they are called spirits. There are good spirits, angels who listen and help God. There are also bad spirits who turned against God and now try to destroy the good things of God. Though spirits can be very powerful, Jesus is God and so he has power over the demons - they can't hurt him and they must obey him. Jesus has just crossed the lake where a really bad storm had come up and Jesus commanded it to be still.

## STORY

*Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee. They met a man with evil spirits, who lived in a cemetery. He screamed constantly and cut himself with stones.*

*Jesus told the spirits to leave. "Don't hurt us, Jesus!" the spirits cried. "My name is Lots," said the man. "There are lots of evil spirits in me."*

*"Well, you have to leave him," said Jesus. "You have no choice." The evil spirits were scared. There was a large herd of pigs nearby. "Then send us into the pigs!"*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP

The #1 reason why a speaker is boring is their voice. If it is always monotone with no changes in pitch and volume, the participants will soon be bored and not listen. Use your voice to engage the children and get them into God's Story. It is one way to make the story come alive in their minds and hearts.

*Jesus let the evil spirits enter the pigs. The whole herd rushed down a steep bank into the lake and drowned!*

*The people who took care of the pigs told everyone in town what had happened. The townspeople came to the cemetery. They saw that Jesus had made the man well.*

*Frightened, the people begged Jesus to leave. The man asked to go with Jesus. Jesus replied, "Stay here. Tell everyone what I've done." The man did, and everyone was amazed!*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord Jesus, You said You would bless us with Your power and authority; that we would be able to do what You did and even more. Bless these children with your power and authority that we might be your disciples to heal the sick and cast out the demons.



# The Big Picnic

Mark 6:30-44

Jesus Feeds 5000

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Share a time when you were able to help someone.

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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

## BACKGROUND

Jesus has found out that his cousin, John, has died. He is trying to find a place where he can be alone and pray to His Father in Heaven but a lot of people continue to follow him. Jesus feels sorry for them and heals them of their sicknesses and now the people are hungry.

## STORY

*Jesus had finished teaching. Everyone was hungry. "Send them away to buy food," His disciples said. But Jesus wanted to show the people that they could trust God. "Why don't you feed them?" Jesus asked. His disciples cried out, "It would take a year's wages to buy bread for them all!" "How much food do you have?" Jesus asked.*

*"There is a boy here who has five loaves and two little fish," Andrew said. Jesus smiled. "Perfect. Tell the people to sit down on the grass." So the people sat down all over the mountainside. Jesus thanked God for the bread and the fish. Then He broke them into pieces for His disciples to hand out.*

*(Continued on the next page)*

## TIP

Jesus taught more by telling stories than he did by giving lectures. We are more engaged, physically, emotionally and spiritually when we listen to a story than just have someone tell us something. It is good to teach like Jesus did.

*Jesus' disciples passed out bread and fish to the whole crowd. There were 5000 men and lots of women and children, too. Everyone ate as much as they wanted! Afterwards, the disciples gathered up the leftovers. There were 12 baskets full from just five loaves and two fish! The people knew they could trust God to care for them.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, I pray that You bless these children with a desire to give from the little that they have. May they give freely and thankfully. Help us all to realize that just like the boy who gave Jesus what he had, we can give you what we have and You can do a lot with it.



# The Donkey and the King

Matt 21:1-11; John 12:16-19;

Luke 19:36-40

Triumphal Entry

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

If you could be someone important, who would you be?

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL 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..

## BACKGROUND

See if any of the children can tell you the Passover story. It is now time for Jesus and his disciples to celebrate the Passover. Jesus has performed many miracles: healing people, walking on water, taking command over demons, feeding thousands of people with a boy's simple lunch. He has taught the people about what it means to live in the Kingdom of God. He has shown and told people that He is the One God sent to show them His love and to be their Savior. Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem for the last time. You will hear how the people laid down their coats on the road and waved palm branches. This was done for special people to honor them.

## STORY

*It was Passover time. Jerusalem was filled with people. When Jesus reached the Mount of Olives, a hill overlooking Jerusalem, He told two of His disciples to find a donkey.*

*They found the donkey and put their cloaks on it. Jesus rode on the donkey, fulfilling the Bible verse that says, "Here comes your King, Jerusalem, riding on a donkey."*

*Jesus rode the donkey down to Jerusalem. Many people remembered His miracles and joined Him. They put cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him to honor Him.*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP

KIDStory is a natural way to develop leaders. When you have someone who is a potential leader, even a child, have them lead the Opening time. After doing this a few times, have them develop and present the Background. Then they might be ready to learn and tell different Bible stories. After this, work with them on leading the discussion time. With continual encouragement and coaching they can potentially lead their own group.

**Matt 21:1-11; John 12:16-19; Luke 19:36-40**

**The Donkey and the King**

*They hoped that Jesus was God's promised Savior. So they shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!"*

*"The whole world is following Him," the Pharisees grumbled. "Tell them to be quiet, Jesus!" "Even if everyone stopped shouting," Jesus replied, "the stones would still praise Me!"*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

**CLOSING BLESSING**

Lord, may these children never be quiet about praising you and letting others know about Jesus and of Your love. Bless them with a joyful heart because they know that they are Your children. Bless them this week with Your love, joy, peace and thanksgiving.



kids around the world



# It is Finished

John 18:28 - 19:42; Luke 23:34-55

The Cross

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Have each child share a time when they were really sad. How come they got so sad?

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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

## BACKGROUND

The religious leaders are jealous of how many people are following Jesus and not them. Though Jesus has been showing and teaching the love of the Father, these leaders decide they want to get rid of Jesus. A common way to punish criminals was to nail them to a cross. Let's see what happens to Jesus.

## STORY

*The religious leaders told the governor, Pilate, that Jesus was dangerous and wanted to be king. Pilate asked Jesus, "Is this true?" "I am King," Jesus answered, "but not of this world."*

*"Jesus is innocent. There is no reason to kill Him. I will set Him free," said Pilate. But the crowd shouted, "Kill Him!" So Pilate had his soldiers whip Jesus. They forced a thorny crown on His head. Then they laid a wooden cross on His back and led Him up a hill. There on that hill, the Roman soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, hands and feet. Then they raised it high. Jesus hung there between two criminals.*

*Around noon, the sky turned dark. Jesus' friends wept. The religious leaders laughed and said, "You saved other people. Why can't you save yourself?" "Forgive them, Father. (They don't know what they are doing,)" said Jesus.*

## TIP

You want the children to learn the story well enough so they can tell their family and friends the awesome things God has done. How are they in retelling the stories of the Bible to others?

John 18:28 - 19:42; Luke 23:34-55

IT IS FINISHED

*When the time came for Jesus to die, He closed His eyes and said, "It is finished." He had completed what He had come to do because of His great love. One of Jesus' followers, a man named Joseph, put Jesus' body in a brand new tomb. He rolled a huge stone in front of it. A long sad Friday was over.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

**CLOSING  
BLESSING**

John 3:16 says that God so loved us that He gave up His only Son so whoever believes and follows Jesus will have life forever with God. Lord bless these children with open minds and hearts to know how much you really do love them and welcome them into your Kingdom.



kids around the world

# A Happy Sunday

Mark 16:1-4 Matt 28:5-8 John  
20:3-10 Luke 24:1-12, 36-49  
*The Empty Tomb*

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

Tell us about a time when you were really happy.

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

**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 each one holding on to the outside of 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. When you say "GO" the children start moving the rope till you say "STOP."

## BACKGROUND

It has been a very hard week for everyone. It started with what seemed like a parade honoring Jesus but by Friday he is made to die on a cross and then he is buried. Jesus has told his followers that he would die and then come back to life but everyone is very sad because he is gone.

One of the things that families and friends would do after a person had died and was buried was to put special spices on the body. It is now Sunday and some women are going to where Jesus is buried to do this for him. Now remember that a disciple is a follower - a student - of the teacher. Let's see how they are doing.

## STORY

*Sunday morning, some women went to put burial spices on Jesus' body. They knew a big stone was covering the tomb's entrance and wondered how they would move it. When they arrived, the stone had already been rolled away, Jesus' body was gone, and there were angels in the tomb!*

*"Jesus is alive!" the angels said. "Go tell His disciples."*

*The women told the disciples, and Peter and John ran to see for themselves. All they found were Jesus' burial clothes. They went back home, confused. Later, the disciples were gathered together in a room. They were talking about what had happened, when Jesus appeared to them. They were terrified. They thought He was a ghost.*

(continued on the next page)

## TIP

This is a perfect lesson to see if any of the children would like to become followers of Jesus. This is not a decision that you need to push children into. It is the Holy Spirit that will bring children of all ages to where they can make a personal choice to respond to His call and follow Him. Be in prayer and believe the Spirit will lead you and the children.

Mark 16:1-4 Matt 28:5-8 John 20:3-10

Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

A HAPPY SUNDAY

*“Don’t worry,” said Jesus. “See my hands and feet. It’s Me! Touch me! Go on! You can’t touch a ghost. Ghosts don’t eat either but I’m hungry.” So He ate some fish. Then He taught them. “The Scriptures are clear,” He said. “The Savior was supposed to suffer and die, and then be raised from the dead. Now tell the world what you have seen. Let everyone know that their sins can be forgiven if they turn to God! It’s possible because of what I have done.”*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today’s story?

Who were the different people in today’s story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God’s Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today’s story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today’s Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

**CLOSING BLESSING**

Read John 3:16 to the group and then ask for the Lord’s blessing: Father God, thank you for all that you have done for each of us. Bless us with your love and put a big desire in our hearts to want to follow you each day of our lives.



kids around the world

# God's Wonderful Gift

## Acts 2:1-47

### *The Holy Spirit Comes*

#### REVIEW

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

#### OPENING

Share a time when you were able to surprise someone.

#### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#### PERSONAL RETELL

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

#### BACKGROUND

Jesus made a promise to the disciples before He went back to Heaven. He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit would give us comfort and strength and remind us what Jesus had taught us.

#### STORY

*Jews from all over the world were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. Jesus' followers were there, too. They gathered together, waiting for the gift Jesus had promised them.*

*In the middle of the festival, God's gift arrived. It began with a sound, a sound like a whirling wind that filled the house where they were waiting. Next, something that looked like fire settled on each one of them. Then God's Holy Spirit filled everyone in the room, and He gave them power to speak different languages! Jews from other parts of the world heard them and were amazed.*

*"These people are speaking our languages," they said, "and sharing the wonderful things God has done!"*

(Continued on the next page)

#### TIP

Leading a group requires a trust in the Holy Spirit to lead you in the questions to be asked and for Him to work in the hearts and lives of the children. Don't expect one response to the story. The Holy Spirit will be speaking to everyone there. Have your lesson prepared but allow the Holy Spirit to work in each person's life - including your own!

*"This is "God's gift," Peter explained. "It was promised long ago. It comes to us through Jesus, our Savior. You crucified Him, but God brought Him back to life."*

*"What should we do?" the people asked sadly. "Turn away from evil," said Peter. "Believe in Jesus Christ. He will forgive your sins and give you the Holy Spirit." On that day 3000 people were baptized. They were just the first of many people who would come to trust in Jesus as their Savior.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Lord, may you bless each child here with a fresh anointing of your Holy Spirit. Bless them with the understanding that as a follower of Jesus, we are not alone. Your Holy Spirit is in us just like He was with Jesus' first disciples.



# Everybody's Welcome

## Acts 10

### *Peter's Vision & Cornelius*

#### REVIEW

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

#### OPENING

We all have dreams though we don't remember them all. Share one you can still picture in your mind.

#### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#### PERSONAL RETELL

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

#### BACKGROUND

When the first disciples started sharing their love for Jesus, they only went to the Jewish people - those that God had first chosen. But God wanted everyone to believe in and follow Him. How would he convince His disciples that it was okay to tell the Gentiles, those who were not Jewish, about Jesus? Let's find out in our next Bible Story.

#### STORY

*Cornelius was an officer in the Roman army. He lived in a place called Caesarea. He and his family respected God. They weren't Jewish. They were Gentiles.*

*Cornelius had a vision. An angel told him, "God hears your prayers and knows that you help the poor. Send men to Joppa to bring Peter here." So Cornelius did*

*In Joppa the next day, Peter was on the roof praying. In a vision, a huge sheet came from heaven. It was filled with animals. A voice said, "Kill something, Peter! Eat!"*

*They were animals that Jews weren't allowed to eat. "I can't eat them," Peter replied. "If I say they're all right to eat," the voice replied, "then they're all right."*

(Continued on the next page)

#### TIP

It is good to start developing leadership skills in the children. The KIDStory strategy makes that possible. Ask a child to come up with the Opening question. After a few weeks of doing that, have them research and allow them to tell the Background. When you feel they are ready, have them tell the Bible Story. It will mean a lot of work on their part but it begins the process of raising up leaders within your ministry.

*That's when Cornelius' messengers arrived. So Peter and some others went with them to Caesarea. Cornelius' house was filled with his friends and family, eager to hear Peter speak.*

*"God showed me, in a vision, that He accepts people from every nation. God sent Jesus to everyone. He is Lord of all. He healed the sick and freed the oppressed.*

*"He was crucified, and then raised from the dead. Everyone who believes in him will be forgiven of their sins." The Holy Spirit came upon them, just like Pentecost. Peter baptized them.*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Read Psalm 105:1 to the children. Lord, bless these children with joy and courage to tell others about you. Help us all not to choose which ones to tell and not to tell but to understand that You want everyone to know about your Son, Jesus. Bless us with Your heart and words.





# A Forever Promise

Revelation 1:17-18; 21:1-7

*The New Heaven & New Earth*

## REVIEW

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

## OPENING

When you think of Heaven, what do you imagine it being like?

## RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

## PERSONAL RETELL

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

## BACKGROUND

John was a disciple that Jesus loved very much. Because he was so bold in his telling others about Jesus, the rulers put him on an island so as not to share more. But Jesus visited him there through dreams and visions which John wrote about in the last book of the Bible. That book is called Revelation. God allowed John to see what Heaven would be like. What an amazing thing!

## STORY

*John was a disciple of Jesus. One day, Jesus came to him in a vision, shining like the sun. "Don't be afraid," Jesus said. "I died. Now I live forever!"*

*Then John saw a new heaven and a new earth, God's promised new creation. The first heaven and the first earth were gone and the sea with them!*

*Next, John saw God's Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down from Heaven. It was beautiful, like a bride on her wedding day ready to meet her husband! Then John heard a loud voice coming from the throne of God saying, "From now on, God will make His home among His people and they will all live together."*

(Continued on the next page)

## TIP

**Show Up!** When you come to meet with your kids, you need to be there physically, spiritually and emotionally. Have you been praying and asking the Holy Spirit to prepare you and your heart? Are you ready to love on ALL the children, even those who are hard to love? Be ready because God's Spirit wants to show up through you!

*“In this new Heaven and new earth, there won’t be any tears because no one will be in pain, and no one will die. Those things are gone ... forever!!”*

*Then the voice from the throne said, “I am the Beginning and the End. If you are thirsty, come to Me, and I will give you the water of life. My new world is for My children, those who are faithful to me. I’m making all things new. It’s true. You can count on it.”*



## Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today’s story?

Who were the different people in today’s story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God’s Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today’s story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

## Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_

After listening to today’s Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Bless each child with hope and joy knowing that You, Jesus, are now in Heaven. In Heaven, everything will be perfect where there is no sin, no tears and no dying. Thank you for that great promise that those who follow Jesus will one day meet you there in Heaven! Thank You!



# God's Good News

## God's Big Story

Be Part of the Story

### REVIEW

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

### OPENING

If I could tell you something important about myself, I would tell you ...

### RETELL

With your Bible, go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

### PERSONAL RETELL

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

### BACKGROUND

We have learned a lot about God, about people and about ourselves through the different Bible Stories. All these stories together tell the big story of God's love and the sending of His Son, Jesus. God's desire is that everyone know Him and to trust and follow Him. Let's hear one more time God's great plan.

### STORY

*In the beginning, God made everything! He made it perfect. He made us, too, in His image. He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.*

*Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God. That sin brought death into the world and broke our relationship with God. It also broke God's perfect world.*

*Sin spread throughout the whole world. Everyone sins, and the result of sin is death. But sin couldn't stop God from loving us. He had a plan!*

*Because of His love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Sin broke our relationship with God, but Jesus came to fix it!*

*Jesus healed sick people and performed many other miracles! He welcomed lonely people. He taught people about God's love. His perfect life shows us what love looks like. Even though Jesus never sinned, He died on a cross for our sins because He loves us. By doing this, He was caring out God's plan to fix our relationship with Him.*

### TIP

Don't be afraid to share stories of what God is and has done in your life. You don't want to dominate the discussions but when appropriate it is good for the children to relate to you as one who has victories and struggles and how God works during those times.

## God's Big Story

*Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin and death! He spent time with His followers, teaching them. Then He returned to Heaven. Now Jesus lives forever!*

*Jesus did not leave us alone. He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside everyone who trusts Him. The Spirit gives us power to live the way God created us to live.*

*One day, when Jesus returns, God will make everything perfect again. He will make a New Heaven and a New Earth. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him, forever!*

*God loves you. He created you one-of-a-kind! Trusting and following Jesus fixes our broken relationship with God! Are you ready to be a part of God's story?*

## GOD'S GOOD NEWS



### Discover Questions

What was your favorite part of today's story?

Who were the different people in today's story?

I wonder what it was like for them to be in God's Story.

As you were listening to the story and you imagined being there, what did you hear and see?

How did the people trust and follow God? or How did the people not obey God? I wonder why. I wonder how it made God feel when they obeyed/disobeyed.

Are there ways that you behave or want to behave like the Bible characters in today's story?

I wonder why God put this story in the Bible.

### Personal Response Questions

What did you learn about God today? I learned that God is \_\_\_

After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to \_\_\_\_\_

Who can you share this story with this week?

## CLOSING BLESSING

Pray John 3:16 over the children; that they may know Jesus and choose to trust and follow Him all the days of their lives. Bless them with the awareness of their part in God's plan to let others know how to become a member of God's family.



# DIFFERENT WAYS TO TELL THE STORY

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Though it is critical to keep true to God's Word, it is okay to tell the story in different ways as the Holy Spirit leads you. Utilizing storytelling techniques makes the story come alive and possibly seem more realistic. Try different methods and encourage others to do the same as they have opportunity to tell or retell the Bible Stories.

- **Audience Participation:** There are many ways in which the audience can be actively involved in the telling of your story. They can act it out as you tell it, they can produce sound effects, do the actions, repeat reoccurring words or phrases
- **Senses:** God has given us the ability to see, hear, touch, taste and smell. Use these to enhance your lessons. You can have objects to see and touch, food to smell and taste, sound effects to hear. Let the Lord inspire you on how to bring the body's senses to your storytelling.
- **Different Perspectives:** Take on the role of someone in the story and tell it through their eyes and emotions. Remember to stay true to what God has written and not embellish on what you think or feel. Using accents and changing one's voice could make it more fun without making it more complex.
- **Objects:** Many people are visual so to have an object that is found in the story could be very helpful in keeping kids focused and bringing the story to life.
- **Multi-Media:** Powerpoints, video clips, KIDS Storyboard Sets, puppets and internet sites could enhance the story. Some of these might be great resources for the retell so the accurate telling of the story is not compromised.
- **Move:** Don't feel that you or your group needs to stay in your seats. As you tell the story, move around the room and engage with your group in the different elements of the story. Move your face – give expressions to what is being said and done with the different Bible characters. Don't be afraid to move your group to different locations to enhance and bring to life the story you are telling.

# Ideas to Retell the Story

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Children learn and remember in various ways. When doing the retell, use a different, but appropriate, activity each week to not only keep the element of fun and wonder, but to engage each of the children. Remember to use the Multiple Intelligence chart (pg ) when you want to use a variety of activities.

## ART

- Graffiti Wall: As a group, have the children write words or draw pictures which tell the story.
- Personal drawing: The children draw a color a picture of the part of the story they liked best.
- Tee Shirt Design: have each child design the front of a tee shirt that could tell the major parts of the story
- Pipe Cleaners & Play Doh/Clay: use these or other available craft items to build and retell 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 given out and the person needs to draw it till someone guesses what it is.

## DRAMA

- Act-it-Out: Assign different parts of the story to children in the group. Have them practice and then act out the story to the rest of the group.
- KIDS Storyboards: using the different flannel characters, have the children retell the story by posting the figures on the storyboard
- 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.
- 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.
- 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: You will need a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two children will can hold it up and then drop it when you tell them. Pick several children to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the children get into a position as though there were a picture or painting of that part of the story. They are to remain perfectly still and then have the cloth dropped so the rest of the group can see it. Each scene changes as you tell the story.
- Puppets: Create simple puppets from things like socks, paper plates, paper cups, sticks, etc and retell the story using these characters.

## GAMES

- Beach Ball: certain key questions for any Bible story can be written on a beach ball with a permanent marker. Wherever the child catches the ball is the question they need to answer. Ones used in the Discovery Questions are:
  - What did you wonder about as the story was being told?
  - What part of the story did you really like? What did you like about it?
  - Was there anything that was difficult or hard to understand?
  - What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made?
  - Something I learned about God is .... What difference will this make in how you love and live for (serve) Him?
  - Do you want to know God like this? Is there something happening right now in your life where God could help you?
- Circle Toss: A ball or other soft object is tossed throughout the small group and the person who has been tossed the ball needs to tell the next thing that happened in the Bible story.
- Timer: Use a watch, someone counting or an egg timer and see how much of the Bible story the group can tell in the allotted amount of time.
- Knot You: Take a 5 yard piece of rope and tie it together to make a circle. Have the kids grab onto the rope. At your command, the kids move the rope clockwise and when you say, "Stop," whoever has the knot has to answer a question you have about the Bible story or tell what happened next in the story.
- Story Cards: Write or draw the different segments of the Bible story on separate sheets of paper. Give them to different children in the class and have the children get in order of the story line. You could also give them a certain amount of time to do it in or write out 2 or more copies of the story line and have several groups of children trying to be the first group to finish.
- Sign Language: Pretend as though you and the person you are trying to tell the story to are deaf. What would that look like?

## MUSIC

- Rap Review: Have the kids create a rap to the main events of the story.
- New Lyrics to a Familiar Song: Have the children pick a simple children's song and change the words so the Bible story is being told through a song.
- Rhythm: Have the group come up with a beat and then tell the story as you do the beat
- Dance: create a dance that would tell the story. Put some background music to it

## WRITING

- Storybooks: the story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook (or comic) format
- Journals: the children are given the opportunity to just quietly sit and journal what was in the story and what it meant to them.
- Top Ten: have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.
- Have each child write out what God wants them to do with what they heard in the story
- Comparisons: Have each child pick one of the characters in the story that was told. Have them draft a chart that expresses how they are similar and how they are different than the Bible Character.

# DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS

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The following questions could be used instead of or in conjunction with the core questions provided with each lesson.

## Discover Questions – Head (Facts):

- a. What was Jesus/God teaching them in this event?
- b. Where in previous stories have we seen God do this?
- c. Which of our other stories talks about \_\_\_\_\_?
- d. What kinds of emotions do you think ...?
- e. How did people respond ....?
- f. What did you notice about \_\_\_\_\_ from the story?
- g. What feelings do you think motivated ....?
- h. What do you think it was like ...?
- i. What do you think was going on in \_\_\_\_\_ heart and mind in this story?
- j. What was \_\_\_\_\_ risking to follow God?
- k. What surprised you about today's story? God? Jesus? How the character responded?
- l. How are the characters alike or different in the story?
- m. What did you like about the story? What was new for you in today's story?
- n. What is something new that you learned or have not seen in this story before?
- o. What did you see in your mind as the story was being told/listening to the story?
- p. What did you wonder about when the story was being told?
- q. What questions do you have about what you have heard?
- r. What did you hear/see/smell in this story?
- s. What stood out to you in the story?
- t. Something new I learned today about...
  - God
  - Jesus
  - What it means to follow Jesus
  - Myself
- u. I like it that ....
- v. I don't like it that ....
- w. Why do you suppose...?
- x. What do you feel after reading/hearing that...?
- y. Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
- z. Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories? What connections did you make?



## **Discover Questions – Heart (Feelings):**

- a. How did this story make you feel?
- b. How would you have felt...?
- c. What have we learned about what God is like? Where have we seen that?
- d. What amazes you the most about Jesus/God?
- e. How did the story describe God's relationship with people?
- f. How did God ....?
- g. What do you notice about God from this story?
- h. What do you think is really important to God? To the character?
- i. How did God respond when the person/people came to Him?
- j. In what ways are we also like ....?
- k. What did we learn about \_\_\_\_\_'s relationship with God from this story?
- l. In what ways is our situation like ...
- m. Does anyone in the story change beliefs, behaviors or attitudes?
- n. What are the characters in the story thinking and feeling? In what ways are they acting or not acting in a God-like way?
- o. How does God respond to the people in the story? What does this show us?
- p. How does \_\_\_\_\_'s life inspire you?
- q. Has God ever used you ....?
- r. How are we just like \_\_\_\_\_?
- s. How can we become \_\_\_\_\_?
- t. Where does your story fit into God's story?
- u. After hearing the story, how might it change how you view yourself?
- v. Which character in today's story do you most relate to?

## **Response Questions –Hands (Implications):**

- a. What does God want you to do because of what you learned today? What should I do differently because of today's story?
- b. What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story?
- c. How should we respond to Jesus today?
- d. What is God inviting you to through this story? (Is there an invitation for you in this story?)
- e. After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
- f. What I think Jesus is saying to me is...
- g. When I hear Him saying that, I feel...
- h. How do you feel about God now?
- i. How can you put this insight into practice this week?
- j. What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to make a change in your life?
- k. Something I never realized before today is...
- l. The most interesting thing you heard today is ...
- m. If someone asked you what was the most important part of today's story, what would you tell them?

# Activities for Discover & Response Questions

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Listed below are some different ways to add some interactive activities during the time of asking questions and having your discussion.

- Rubber Band: Pass a rubber band around and have kids answer the question: “How does today’s Bible story stretch you to become more like Jesus?”
- Book Cover: “If you could design a book cover from your response to today’s lesson, what title would you give the book and what picture would you put on it?”
- Road Signs: Have kids respond to the Bible story based on various road signs. Some examples are:
  - Stop: “What does God want you to stop doing?”
  - U-turn: “Something or someone I need to go back to is...”
  - Yield: “An area where I need to yield to God is...”
  - Hospital: “Who is someone that needs your help right now?”
  - Merge: “Someone who can come alongside me right now is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is what I believe I need to do...”
- Newspaper Headline: “In a newspaper headline, summarize what you learned about God or how you connected to the story.”
- Pass the Gem: Have something “precious” that you could have the kids pass around for those that want to answer the question: “What was the treasure you received from the lesson today?”
- Deck of Cards: Deal out one or more cards to each person in your group. The suit of each card describes the response each person needs to make:
  - Heart = feeling you had from the lesson
  - Diamond = something important to you
  - Spade = something you feel God would have you do from what you have learned
  - Club = Something you want to pass on to some one else
- Tee Shirt Design: “How would you let others know what God means to you after hearing today’s story?”