

Session 6: Sharing the Gospel Message God's Great Story

*... the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said.
"I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.
The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—
has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ...
After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened
and what the angel had said to them about this child.
All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished.
Luke 2:10-11, 17-18 (NLT)*

The good news ... the Gospel message ... is that Jesus, the Messiah, is here. It is Good News that needs to be shared with everyone just like the shepherds did on that first Christmas day.

The aspect of going and multiplying has always been God's plan. It did not start on that first Christmas, nor did it start when Christ commissioned His followers in Matthew 28 and commanded them to go make disciples. It started in creation. From the first chapter in Genesis when God made man and woman, He told them to multiply and fill the earth. In Genesis 12, God said to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, not just one. New nations (people groups) would be formed and blessed by him and his descendants. God tells Abraham: *I will give you many descendants. New nations will be born from you, and kings will come from you.* (Genesis 17:6 NCV) It carries on to Paul telling Timothy: *You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. **Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.*** (II Timothy 2:2 NLT)

The message itself is clear: Go and tell the Good News. But how that message is shared should be based on the cultural context you are in. It needs to be adapted depending on where you are in the world. How one hears and receives the Gospel message is going to be different and can actually be traced back to how Adam and Eve responded when they first disobeyed God, bringing shame into the world and the ruling power on earth was handed over to Satan.

- Adam and Eve realized they were naked which brought **shame**. God continually replaces shame with renewed **honor**.
- They heard the Lord walking through the garden which produced **fear**. God comes with **power** to overcome the enemy and our fear.
- Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent because there was **guilt**. They broke the one rule God had given them by eating the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. Prior to this they lived in **innocence**.



How do we present the Gospel so that each person can hear it in the context of their culture and not just the Western thinking of Guilt and Innocence? The Gospel story told in this booklet seeks to incorporate each one of these worldviews. It is designed to be drawn in a small booklet in front of a group of children. The children then create their own to tell and retell this incredible storyline of God's redemptive work. It can be told as a story and visually drawn with simple pictures.

The following are directions showing how to create this personal storybook. It can be completed at one time or in several sessions where previous storylines are reviewed and a new one is added. The following pages give some basic instructions and possible Bible verses that can be associated with each page. You will notice that there are no words on the pages so this Gospel Story can be "read" and told by anyone to everyone at anytime!

We pray God's blessings upon you and for the children to have open minds and hearts as you connect them to Jesus and His Story.

Ask Yourself

1. How have we shared the Gospel message and how effective has it been?
2. What do I see being effective in the presentation given during this session?

Join us for Session 7 when we discuss teaching different age groups and contexts.

For more information on Kids Around the World, go to:

katw.org

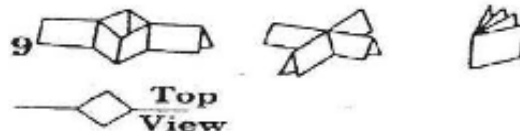
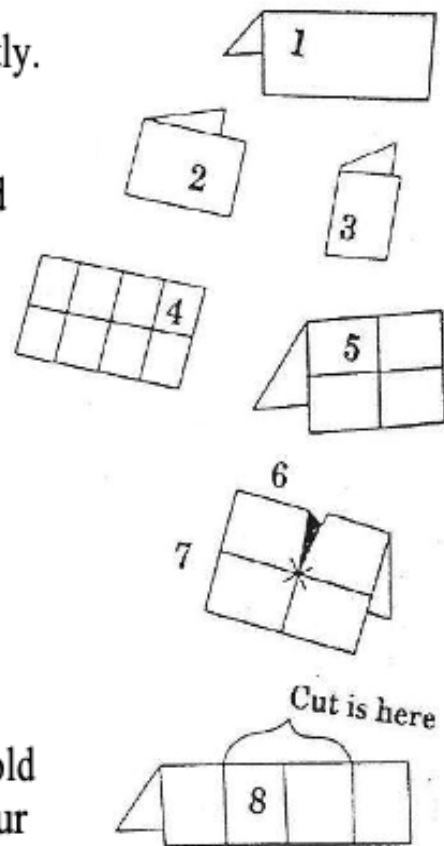


How to Make Blank Books for Writing

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

Fold-A-Book Instructions

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



Cut-And-Staple Book Instructions

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



KIDStory Gospel Presentation

Pg #	Verbiage	What to Draw	Picture	Notes & Verses for the Page
<p>1</p> <p>Front cover</p>	<p>In the beginning there was God. God spoke and He created everything: everything seen and unseen, everything on the earth and in the universe.</p> <p>He created the sun, moon and stars in the skies above</p> <p>He separated the land from the seas</p> <p>God spoke and created the birds in the sky, the fish in the waters, animals on the land and all the trees and plants. <i>It is good!</i> God said about everything He created.</p>	<p>A squiggly line along the top to designate God. Draw lines out from that line to show God speaking. Draw a circle as the earth.</p> <p>Sun, crescent shaped moon, stars</p> <p>Land and water</p> <p>Fish in the sea, birds in the sky, an animal on one land mass, a tree in the other</p>		<p>As you are telling the story, have the children either copying what you are drawing or have them draw the different things you are describing. You might stop at each segment and suggest what to draw.</p> <p>Genesis 1:31a</p> <p><i>Then God looked over all he had made, and He saw that it was very good!</i></p>

<p>2</p>	<p>One of the last things God created was a man from the dust of the earth. His name was Adam. God breathed life into Adam.</p> <p>God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone. From Adam God created a woman named Eve.</p> <p>Everyday God came and spent time with Adam and Eve. There was no need to hide from God. There was no guilt or shame or fear of God or anything else.</p> <p>God said this was all very good. Everything God created showed His love and brought Him great honor and glory.</p>	<p>God above as a squiggling line</p> <p>Adam and then draw Eve with them holding hands</p> <p>Draw lines coming out from the squiggling lines representing God. Draw a heart to show their love for one another and between God and them.</p>		<p>I John 1: <i>We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Genesis 2:7 <i>Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.</i></p>
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3

God placed Adam and Eve in a magnificent garden called Eden. God told them to take care of everything in the garden. There were two special trees in the Garden. One was the Tree of Life. The other was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God had one rule for them to obey. They could eat anything in the Garden except the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

Satan was an angel who rebelled against God. He entered into a serpent who tempted Eve to not trust God and to eat the fruit. He told her she could be just like God. Eve believed the serpent. She saw that the fruit was beautiful, took it and ate it.

Adam was with Eve and he ate it too.

Now Adam and Eve realized they did not have any clothes on and they were ashamed. They made clothes from the leaves of the trees. They were now afraid of God and when He came to visit them that day, they tried to hide from Him.

Disobeying God, which is called sin, brought disgrace, shame and fear. It made them feel bad and guilty. And it separated them from each other and God. They could no longer live in the Garden of Eden and eat from the Tree of Life. Because they disobeyed God they would eventually die.

God above

A tree in the center with fruit on it

Draw a snake / serpent in the tree. Eve on one side of the tree, head down.

Then draw a piece of fruit half eaten on the ground

Adam on the other side of the tree with head down

Grave and tombstone in the lower right corner.



Satan being the serpent can be found in Rev 12:9

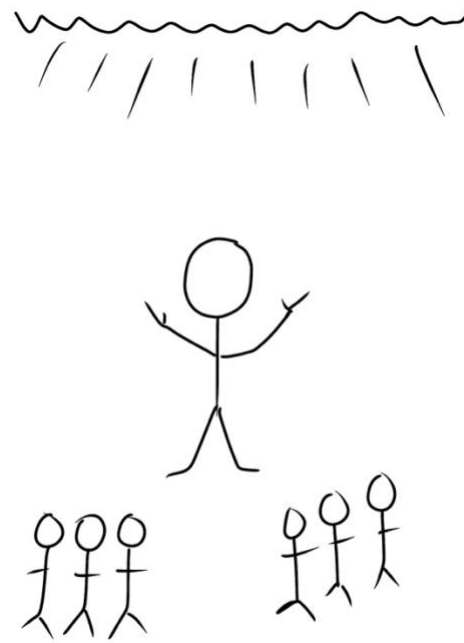
Romans 6:23
For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

4

Throughout the Bible, God kept showing the people who He was and how much He loved them so they would not hide but come back to Him. God always wanted to have that perfect friendship with His people and the perfect place for all to live. God wanted to show the people that He could be trusted.

God used circumstances and people called prophets to speak for Him. One of those people was named Ezekiel and he said: *"You brought shame to My great name among the nations, but I AM going to show you My holiness. I AM going to bring you back. I AM going to wash you clean. I will give you a new heart. And I will put My Spirit within you and you will be My people."* (Ez 36:22-28)
Another prophet named Isaiah promised the people that God would send a savior who would save the people from their sins and be with Him once again. The people still would not listen and receive God's love and instructions. God was silent for 400 years.

Squiggly line to represent God with lines showing God speaking



Isaiah 53:5-6
*But he was pierced for our rebellion,
crushed for our sins.
He was beaten so we could be whole.
He was whipped so we could be healed.
All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
We have left God's paths to follow our own.
Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.*

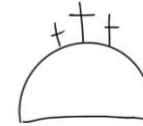
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But God's plan all along was for Jesus to do something that would allow people to be with God forever. Something needed to be done so God would be honored again. A payment needed to be made. That payment was for Jesus, the perfect man and Son of God, to die by being nailed to a cross made of big wood planks. It was terrible and extremely painful. Jesus made a way for us to know God for who He really is. We can trust Him. By dying on the cross, Jesus saves people and they no longer have to hide from God.

Jesus was placed in a tomb with a big rock across it so no one would steal his body. Three days after Jesus died, some women, who trusted and followed Jesus, went to the tomb. The big stone was rolled away and there was an angel there. He told the women: *Jesus is no longer here. He has risen! Go tell the other followers.* Jesus is no longer dead but he is alive!!

A hill with the Cross

In the hillside where you have the crosses, draw the tomb and then the stone rolled away. Draw lines of brilliance coming from the grave.



6

For the next 40 days Jesus came at different times and visited with those who chose to follow him. He continued to show and teach them about God's love and power. He told them to make disciples, followers of Jesus, throughout all the world. He promised too always be with them. Then Jesus went to be with the Father in Heaven. He promised he would not leave us alone.

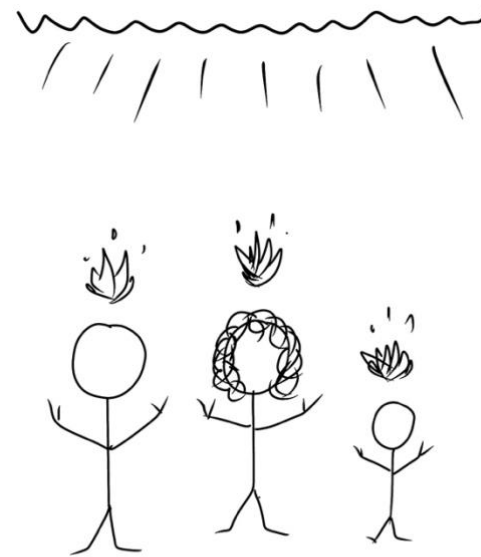
Several days later, followers of Jesus were in a room. A great noise, like rushing wind and what seemed like flames of fire came upon their heads. God was sending the Holy Spirit to live inside all those who choose to follow Jesus. God was giving His power and authority to be in each of His followers. The disciples began speaking in all different languages so everyone in all the nations could know about God's love. God was restoring the friendship with His people for all who would believe in Jesus. With Jesus we no longer need to feel shame and guilt. We don't have to be afraid and hide from God. God can be trusted.

God does not want us to be alone. He sent His Holy Spirit not just to be with us but to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us the power of God and the love of Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to be more like Jesus in loving God and one another. God's people are a family which He calls the church. He gives us courage to tell other people about Jesus. We need God's Spirit and we need one another.

God sign with lines coming out to represent God speaking

Holy Spirit came down with *tongues of fire* and dwells within us.

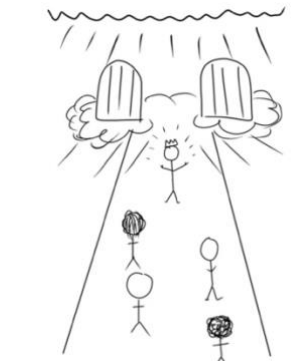

God also gave us the church – the family of God to be there for one another.



Spirit comes you will do greater things – the things

John 14:12
Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Acts 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

7	<p>Jesus is now sitting next to God the Father in Heaven. The Bible says He is preparing a place for all his followers to live with Him forever in Heaven.</p>	<p>Jesus taking His followers back to Heaven with Him</p> <p>People</p>		<p>John 14:2-3 <i>There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you. After I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am.</i></p>
8	<p><i>God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.</i> John 3:16. We now have a choice. Because of Jesus, we can now become children of God and become part of His family. We can know that we are always loved and accepted by God. God has shown that He can be trusted and we no longer need to hide from Him. Will we believe with all of our mind and heart that Jesus is the Son of God and choose to follow Him? Or will we continue to go our own way, believing the lies of the serpent like Adam and Eve did and be separated from God? God leaves the choice to us.</p>	<p>Fork in the road with the wide path going to a drop off into flames (hell) and the narrow path going to the Heavenly gates</p>		<p>Matthew 7:13 <i>Enter through the narrow gate. The gate is wide and the road is wide that leads to hell, and many people enter through that gate.</i></p> <p>John 3:16 <i>God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.</i></p> <p>Luke 15:10 <i>That's the way God responds every time one lost sinner repents and turns to him. He says to all his angels, 'Let's have a joyous celebration, for that one who was lost I have found!'</i></p>