

KIDStory[®] +

A PROGRAM OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

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

the **GOSPEL** *of* *the* **KINGDOM**

A COLLABORATION OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD & THE BIBLE PROJECT



BibleProject

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Welcome to KIDStory+

in collaboration with The Bible Project

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

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

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

These strategies are fun to learn, easy to use & designed to be shared with others. Leaders listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit & the responses of their students, then encourage them to also listen & be obedient to God's voice. The questions & interactions posed by the leaders are not about simply learning information; rather they focus on facilitate Holy Spirit transformation of the heart & mind. KIDStory is about God transforming a life, a family & ultimately a community through His Story & His Spirit.

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

CORE ESSENTIALS

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

Bible Centered | Fun | Empowering | Relational | Spirit-Led

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

KIDStory Clubs

an environment where disciple-making happens

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

A KIDStory Club is a place where students have fun & are free to ask real questions, connect dots & share what they are learning & experiencing; a place where God's presence is very real & evident. It's here that we leave behind rote learning concepts & step toward an approach that thrives on dialog, fun activities & is anchored in genuine relationships. It's where everyone feels safe, feels known & feels accepted & do likewise for others. KIDStory Clubs are also a safe place for parents & leaders to learn & grow in how to lead young believers spiritually & have deeper conversations – a place where people are consistently equipped & encouraged.

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

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

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

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

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

Series Format for KIDStory+

Initial Week:

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

Middle Sessions:

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

Final Week:

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

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

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

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

Individual Session Format for KIDStory+

Opening:

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

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

Background:

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

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

Tell the Story:

- Involve the students in the story
- Use dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging & interactive
- Use visual objects to show the group if possible
- Keep the length of the story appropriate for the students to learn so they can tell others

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

Retell:

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

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

Discover & Response Questions:

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

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

Gospel Series Overview for Facilitators & Parents

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

The KIDStory+ series are linked with videos created by the team at The Bible Project. To view it ahead of time & understand the unified story of THE MESSIAH, as it points toward Jesus, you can watch the video here: vimeo.com/458159199/4b7888e3a2

We have constructed the series to resemble a snorkeling excursion. As we swim across the surface of the waters, at times we see specific things that can tell us more about the environment we are exploring. In order to understand it better, we dive down & take a peek. Then we swim back to the surface, catch our breath & keep swimming until we find the next thing to dive deep on! & that's exactly our plan. Over the next six weeks we will dive into the stories below, in hopes of better understanding THE GOSPEL...God's GOOD NEWS and upside-down kingdom! These may be familiar stories to you or your students, but our hope is that linking them together in this manner will create space for new engagement, deep conversation, & thoughtful questions!

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SERIES:

Week 1 – Going, Going ... GONE (Mark 6:7-13)

Early expeditions and light travel as the disciples head out to share the Good News

Week 2 – Next Level Faith (Matthew 8:5-10, 13)

An unexpected believer approaches Jesus for a miracle, but his faith is almost as miraculous

Week 3 – Sacrificial Love (Mark 15:33-39)

A King that conquers the ultimate enemy by laying down his own life ... no greater love

Week 4 – New Day Dawns (Luke 24:1-12)

The empty tomb and the risen Jesus set the stage for Good News and the New Kingdom to begin

Week 5 – You Are Not Alone (Acts 2:1-12)

The Spirit of God takes up residence in the disciples, and the Kingdom starts to grow

Week 6 – Blindsided (Acts 9:3-18)

A sworn enemy of the Good News is stopped in his tracks by Jesus and his life changes forever

We will define THE GOSPEL as: *The Good News that God loves us and wants together with us again...all made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, allowing us to truly live and go share this Good News too.*

Our series verse will be: *"We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too." 1 Thessalonians 2:8 NIRV*



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GOING, GOING...GONE FULL GUIDE Mark 6:7-13

1. OPENING: Share a time when you felt like you made a difference in someone else's life.

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

Over the next six weeks we are going to be talking about **THE GOSPEL**. "Let's watch a short video about it & then I have a Bible Story to tell you that may help us start to know more about this GOSPEL" vimeo.com/458159199/4b7888e3a2

Jesus has been teaching and healing throughout the land. He returns to his home town of Nazareth and finds that the people there have little faith in him being God's Son. Because of that, he is only able to do a few miracles. He decides to go to those who will believe. He has a plan to have his disciples, his followers, to help him with his plan. Jesus wants the Good News of His Father's Kingdom to be spread throughout the land.

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

And Jesus called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two. He gave them his power and authority to deal with the enemy and to cast out evil spirits.

These were the instructions Jesus gave them: Take nothing with you – no extra food, no extra clothes or money. You may take with you a walking stick, the sandals on your feet and the cloak on your back

"Wherever you go," Jesus said, "stay in the same house until you leave town. But if any place refuses to welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust from your feet as you leave as a warning to them."

So, the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins. Life could be different for them if they turn to God. And they cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with olive oil and they were healed.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

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

Musical Chairs: Make a circle of chairs, facing out. Have chairs for everyone in your group except one. When the music starts, they walk around the chairs. When it stops, everyone sits. The child still standing tells a part of the story. Repeat until the story is retold.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation & exploration to take shape*

- What did you like about the story?
- What could the disciples NOT take with them?
- What are 10 things they did have?
(The students will need to stretch beyond the obvious. After each response you might ask: What else did they have?)
- If you were one of those disciples what would have frightened you the most about what Jesus was asking of you? What would excite you the most?
- What part of the story sounded like Good News to you?
- If you had to share the Good News with others, what would you tell them?
- Is there someone in your life that you feel you should tell?
- What does this story tell you about Jesus?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- What is God impressing you the most about this story?
- What are you sensing God wants you to do with what you learned?

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, I ask for Your anointing upon each us here. May we continually remember that You are enough – that You give us everything we need to further Your Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

GOSPEL SERIES VERSE: *1 Thessalonians 2:8*

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.



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NEXT LEVEL FAITH FULL GUIDE *Matthew 8:5-10, 13*

1. OPENING: Share a time when you got hurt really badly.

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

Jesus has recently done a lot of teaching on what it means to live a Godly life that is pleasing and honoring to the Lord. He has called 12 men to be His followers, His disciples. Large crowds of people are following Jesus. Jesus begins healing those who have been sick. These people have been Israelites, those who have been born in families that God had selected. The Romans were not one of these people and so the Israelites did not think Jesus should help them.

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

When Jesus entered the city of Capernaum, an army officer came to him, begging for help. The officer said, *"Lord, my servant is at home in bed. He can't move his body and is in much pain."*

Jesus said to the officer, *"I will go and heal him."*

The officer answered, *"Lord, I am not worthy for you to come into my house. You only need to command it, and my servant will be healed. I, too, am a man under the authority of others, and I have soldiers under my command. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell another soldier, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and my servant does it."*

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He said to those who were following him, *"I tell you the truth, this is the greatest faith I have found, even in Israel."*

Then Jesus said to the officer, *"Go home. Your servant will be healed just as you believed he would."* And his servant was healed that same hour.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

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

Hand Motions: Go back through the Bible story & 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.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation & exploration to take shape*

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- How does the army officer's responses and/or actions in this story relate to what the disciples did in last week's story?
- What do you think made the army officer feel "unworthy" to have Jesus come to his house?
- Who do you know that demonstrates great faith and trust in Jesus or God? How did they build it?
- If Jesus could fix something in your life, with just a command, what would you want Him to fix?
- What was the Good News that the army officer heard? How about everyone else that was there?
- This story tells me that Jesus is _____.

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- Because of what I heard today; I believe God wants me to _____.
- Who can you share this story and your God story with this week?

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

May we be blessed with the understanding that You, God, are for us and not against us. Continue to do the miraculous today in healing people as You did so many years ago.

GOSPEL SERIES VERSE: *1 Thessalonians 2:8*

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.



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SACRIFICIAL LOVE FULL GUIDE Mark 15:33-39

1. OPENING: I get really sad when _____.

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

Though Jesus has done nothing wrong, people are jealous and angry with him and want to have him killed. They have him nailed to a cross to die. Some people are very sad, some are angry, some people are confused because they thought Jesus was going to save the nation of Israel. This was all part of God's plan to join us back together with Him – the Gospel of the Kingdom! Some other things to help you with the story: It had been said that a prophet named Elijah would return before God would send the Savior. Also, there was a huge curtain in the temple where the Jewish people worshipped. It separated people from where God was. Let's pretend to be there when all this is happening.

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

At noon the whole country became dark, and the darkness lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

When some of the people standing there heard this, they said, "Listen! He is calling Elijah."

Someone there ran and got a sponge, filled it with vinegar, tied it to a stick, and gave it to Jesus to drink. He said, "We want to see if Elijah will come to take him down from the cross."

Then Jesus cried in a loud voice and died. The curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces, from the top to the bottom.

When the army officer who was standing in front of the cross saw what happened when Jesus died, he said, "This man really was the Son of God!"

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

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

Billboard: Design a roadside billboard of the Bible story or how you see yourself connecting with it.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation & exploration to take shape*

- Normally we ask what you might like about today's story. Today's story is different. What part did you **dislike** the most? How does it make you feel?
- As you imagine being in the story, what do you hear and see?
- Sin separated us from God and something had to be done for us to be reconciled, or brought back together with God. How does it make you feel that Jesus willingly died to make that possible?
- Why does God love us so much that He would allow His own Son to die on our behalf?
- The word Gospel means Good News. Why would we think of the cross as part of the Good News?
- If the curtain in the temple is torn open and we can now enter into God's presence, what excites you the most about that? What would you want to say to God?
- What does this story tell you about God?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- What is one thing about you that Jesus loves and sees as worth giving up His life for?
- What do you think Jesus wants you to do with what you have learned today?
- Who needs to hear today's story? When would be the best time to tell them?

If you have time, read Psalm 22 to the students to provide context to Jesus' cry of "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Have them stand up each time they hear something in Psalm 22 that reminds them of Jesus on the cross.

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for us which caused the curtain to tear and we can come into Your Presence. Bless each of us with a stronger desire to be with You and to share this Good News with others!

GOSPEL SERIES VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 2:8

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.



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NEW DAY DAWNS FULL GUIDE Luke 24:1-12

1. OPENING: I get most excited when _____.

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

The followers of Jesus are shocked and confused when Jesus is killed and buried. They thought he was a king that was going to save them from the Roman people who were severely mistreating them. How could he do it when now he was dead and buried? That was on Friday and now it is Sunday. As was customary at that time, some of the women, who were disciples of Jesus, were going to where Jesus was buried to anoint his body. There is a surprise waiting for them.

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

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

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

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

The women left the tomb and told all these things to the eleven apostles and the other followers. The women told the apostles everything that had happened at the tomb. But they did not believe the women, because it sounded like nonsense.

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

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

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.

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

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation & exploration to take shape*

- What did you imagine as the story was being told? What did you see and hear?
- How did Peter's reaction differ from the women's reaction? Why do you think that was?
- Last week we talked about the cross being a part of the Good News. What part does the empty tomb play in the Good News?
- If Jesus can overcome death, what is part of your life would you want Him to overcome?
- This story tells me that Jesus is _____.

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- What is the Holy Spirit asking of you because of what you learned today?
- I can't keep this Good News inside me. I want to share this story with _____.
This might be a good week to share the Gospel with the children and let them know about God wanting a personal relationship with each of them.

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

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

GOSPEL SERIES VERSE: *1 Thessalonians 2:8*

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE FULL GUIDE Acts 2:1-12

1. OPENING: If you had all the power in the world, what would you do with it?

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

You might remember from last week that Jesus is no longer in the tomb – He is alive! He stays and visits with the people for 40 more days. Then, right before the disciples' eyes, Jesus is lifted back into Heaven. Just before He leaves, Jesus tells the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. For the Spirit will allow them to not only do what He did for the three years He was with them, but they would do even greater things. The Holy Spirit would give them power and help them be Jesus' witness in every part of the world.

Pentecost is a holiday that comes fifty days after Passover. The people keep waiting and waiting till.

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

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them.

There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a crowd came together.

They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were completely amazed at this.

They said, *"Look! Aren't all these people that we hear speaking from Galilee? Then how is it possible that we each hear them in our own languages as we are from many different places. But we hear them telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!"*

They were all amazed and confused, asking each other, *"What does this mean?"*

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

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

Act it Out: Assign different characters of the story to each child. Let them practice before actually acting out the story.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation & exploration to take shape*

- What did you like about today's story?
- Jesus had promised his followers that they would not be left alone. From this story we see that he sends the Holy Spirit to be with the people. What does the Spirit do in today's story?
- So far, we've talked about how the cross and the empty tomb are parts of the Good News. What role do you think the Holy Spirit plays in the Gospel (Good News)?
- I wonder what the Spirit wants to do through each of us in sharing the Good News?
- If given the opportunity to share the Good News, what would you tell someone?
- In what ways might God come to us today?
- What amazes you about God?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- How will you respond to God today?
- What do you sense God wants you to do with what you have learned today?
- Is there someone He wants you to share the Gospel with?

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Jesus, bless us with awe and wonder about who You are and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives as Your followers.

GOSPEL SERIES VERSE: *1 Thessalonians 2:8*

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BLINDSIDED FULL GUIDE

Acts 9:3-18

1. OPENING: Share a time when everyone wanted to do one thing but you wanted to do something else.

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

As we have been learning through this series, God's Good News...the Gospel...is that God wants all people to be joined back to Him. His love is so amazing that He will do whatever it takes to make this possible. This free gift of grace is made real through Jesus' death and resurrection, if we accept it.

Sometimes the Gospel reaches people through the kindness of another person, for some it is through the wonder of His creation, for some it happens by hearing the words or stories of the Bible. Sometimes it happens in very unusual ways like in today's story:

The Jewish leaders are very upset that people are believing in the resurrection and following Jesus. They begin to persecute them, which means to punish, in hopes that they would stop following Jesus. They sent out a man named Saul to find anyone he could that believed in Jesus. He had arrest warrants with him, so that those he found, could be brought back to Jerusalem and thrown in jail.

Watch The Bible Project's video again at the end of session to see what the students have learned:
vimeo.com/458159199/4b7888e3a2

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

So, Saul headed toward Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do." The people traveling with Saul stood there, but said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one.

Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but he could not see. So those with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. For three days Saul could not see and did not eat or drink.

There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!" Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go ask for a man named Saul. He is there now, praying. Saul has seen a vision in which a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he is able to see again."

But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your holy people in Jerusalem. Now he has come here to Damascus, and the leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to those who are not Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." So, Ananias went to see Saul.

He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

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.

Hide & Seek: Write phrases of the story on cards or paper. Place them around the room. Send the children to find one each. They will meet in the front of the room and place themselves in the proper order. Have someone read and retell the story.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation & exploration to take shape*

- What was the best part of the story for you?
 - What is something you learned today about Jesus?
 - What did *Saul think* the Lord was calling him to do? What was God actually preparing him for?
 - Jesus made Saul physically blind, but what had he been blind to long before that?
 - When Saul could see again, what else do you think he could now see or understand?
 - The video we've seen quotes Isaiah saying, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." Does anyone know how Saul's life, after this story, changed?
(You may provide some leading questions or share a short epilogue of what Paul would go on to do in his travels)
 - I wonder what adventures in sharing the Good News Jesus has for you.
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- In what ways is God trying to get your attention?
 - What is God asking of you right now? In what ways is this hard for you?
 - What did you learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story?
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, bless each of us with the ability to see the plan you have for us and how You might use us to further Your Kingdom.

GOSPEL SERIES VERSE: / *Thessalonians 2:8*

We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

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

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

ART

- **Drawing:** Students can draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each student share their pictures with the rest of the group.
- **Group Poster:** Students work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the students to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.
- **Story Parts:** Students select a certain scene of the story to draw. Have the students put the story in order by the drawings that have been made & retell it as a group.
- **Comic Strip:** Students fold a piece of paper into 4-8 sections. For each scene or action in the Bible story, students draw a picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story.
- **Billboard:** Design a roadside billboard of the Bible story or how you see yourself connecting with it.
- **Pictionary:** Different parts of the story are randomly given out & each student needs to draw what they have been given until someone guesses what it is.
- **Tee Shirt Design:** Have each student design the front of a tee shirt that could tell the major parts of the story.
- **Logo Design:** If there could be just one picture, with no words, that would best tell the Bible story, what would that be? Have the students draw it. You can use this simple picture as a way of reviewing the different Bible stories in weeks to come.
- **Book Cover Design:** Students design & draw their own book cover with words & pictures that best capture the different parts of the Bible story.

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Retell Activities & Descriptions

DRAMA / PERFORMANCE

- **Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the students. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two students who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.
- **Retell:** through a character's eyes.
- **Create a Song:** Create a song that will retell the Bible Story. You might use a song that the students are very familiar with & then change the words so it retells the Bible story.
- **Partners:** Have the students get into smaller groups of 2-3. Each student will take a turn retelling the story. If someone gets stuck & can't remember the next part, the others in the group can help them.
- **Pantomime:** Divide the group into several smaller groups. Have one act out the first part of the story without using words. The other groups have to say what is happening. Rotate groups & continue until the story is complete
- **Objects:** Give each group 1-3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects, but must use the 3 objects given to them.
- **Human Slide Show:** Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two students will hold it up & then drop it when you tell them. Pick several students to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the students get into a position as though there were a picture or painting of that part of the story. They are to remain perfectly still & then have the cloth dropped so the rest of the group can see it. Each scene changes as the story is retold.
- **Dance:** Retell the story through a dance with or without music & words.
- **Top Ten:** Have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top 10 events of the story.
- **Journals:** The children are given the opportunity to just quietly sit & journal what was in the story & what it meant to them.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

GAMES

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

Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Head (Facts)

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

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

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Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Heart (Feelings)

***My goal is to connect emotionally & spiritually with the story,
Allowing the story to penetrate my heart. How does it relate to my life?
I want to LOVE God through His Word.***

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

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Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Hands (Actions)

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

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

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

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



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