



KIDStory

PRESCHOOL 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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Welcome to KIDStory & Bible App for Kids

The materials and lessons in this manual are part of a strategy called KIDStory which equips leaders to create environments where kids can encounter the love of Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit. Bible App for Kids (<https://www.bible.com/kids>) is about what kids need to fall in love with God's Word. Through these resources and the partnership with like-hearted ministries, like LifeChurch and OneHope, we believe what you will discover here will revolutionize the way you teach from the Bible, and through His Word and Spirit, your life will be transformed as well. Children will become eye-witnesses and active participants in God's Story and not just be distant observers. KIDStory relies on Jesus' method of teaching: telling stories, interactive experiences and meaningful discussions.

These strategies are fun to learn, and they are easy to use and share with others. Leaders are taught to listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit and the responses of the children, then encourage the children to also listen and be obedient to God's voice. The questions and interactions posed by the leaders are not just to learn information, but to facilitate Holy Spirit transformation of the heart and mind. KIDStory is about God transforming a life, a family and ultimately a community through His Story and His Spirit.

CORE ESSENTIALS

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

- **Bible Centered:** The core of every lesson, both in teaching children and training leaders, is the Bible Story. Everything continually keeps coming back to the story and discovering who God is and how to follow Him.
- **Fun:** We want these truths to stick and become a part of a child's everyday life. In order for this to happen and to engage a child, it needs to be fun. When there is fun and laughter, children will want to be involved, come back and bring their friends with them.
- **Reproducible:** KIDStory is simple and practical. Leaders can show others how to use this strategy and the kids can retell the Bible Stories to family and friends.
- **Relational:** Of all the things that draw children closest to Jesus, significant relationships are by far the most critical thing needed. It's not just about teaching a lesson, but it's getting to know the children and what is stirring in their hearts and souls.
- **Spirit-led:** Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be the One to reveal all the things that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit is the One who transforms a life. We need to be listening and moving in directions the Holy Spirit leads us in.

StoryClubs

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

A StoryClub is a place where children have fun and are free to share what they are learning and experiencing; a place where God's presence is very real and evident. Jesus created this kind of environment by welcoming, loving and blessing the children. It's here that children are not just learning from a book, but through relationships. It's where they feel safe and are known and accepted and do likewise for others. StoryClubs are also a safe place for parents and leaders to learn and grow in how to lead children spiritually – a place where people are consistently equipped and encouraged.

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

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

We greatly appreciate the permission granted by LifeChurch (<https://open.church/preschool>) and OneHope to combine their resources with the KIDStory methodology to develop these preschool lessons. The 24 lessons found in the Bible App for kids are what LifeChurch uses as their preschool curriculum though there are many other Bible Stories that can be found on the app.

OneHope has developed some other collaborative resources to include:

- Parent pages: <https://bibleappforkids.com/parents>
- StoryCards: <http://library.onehope.net/resources/view/id,4714>

So, Welcome!! We pray the Lord opens up many doors for you to create environments where children encounter the love of Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit.

Lesson Format for KIDStory

Opening:

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

Background:

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

Tell the Story:

- Break down story into 4 or 5 “chapters.”
- Involve the children in the story.
- Use dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging and interactive. Use visual objects to show the group if possible.
- Keep the length of the story appropriate for the children to learn so they can tell others.

Retell:

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

Discover & Response Questions:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ideas for KIDStory Lessons

(for more ideas see additional resource pages at the end of this document)

Tell the Story:

- Use costumes or objects.
- Have children make sound effects (rubbing hands to make the sound of rain).
- Move around the room. Use lots of facial expressions.
- Tell the story in First Person (as though you were one of the characters in the story).

Retell:

- Game: Musical Chairs. Person standing without a chair tells first part of story. Repeat until story is done.
 - Art: Billboard. Design a roadside billboard to tell the story.
 - Drama: Give children an object and see how many ways they can use it to tell the story.
 - Music: Create a rap of the main events in the story.
 - Writing: What's Next. Have the children write out what God wants them to do with what they heard in the story.
-

Discover & Response Questions:

Head Questions (Facts)

- What stood out in the story?
- Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell/feel?
- What is Jesus/God teaching them in this story?
- How did God/Jesus respond when...
- What have we learned about what God/Jesus is like?
- How are the characters alike or different in the story?



Heart Questions (Feelings)

- What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story?
- What do you think was going on in _____'s heart and mind in this story?
- How do you feel about God/Jesus now?
- Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?



Hand Questions (Action)

- What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to change your life?
- After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
- Who can you share this story with this week?
- How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?



Sample Schedule for StoryClubs

Welcome:

- Greet children and create an environment where they are welcomed
- Formal opening to the club time
- Prayer

Games:

- Have fun!
- Children and leaders are engaged, where relationships are being built.
- Choose games where all the children can be involved.

Large Group:

- *KidConnect*: Children gather in small groups with their leaders to share stories from the week which includes following up on previous decisions from answering the Hand Questions. The Opening could be done here or in the large group.
- Worship: Connecting with God.
- Background and creative telling of the Bible story.
- Story Review and possibly one Retell activity.

Small Group:

- Retell the Bible Story using a variety of activities each week.
- Ask head, heart and hand questions.
- Close in prayer and give a blessing.

Closing:

- Volunteer to retell the Bible story.
- Closing words, announcements, prayer.
- Greet parents.

The Welcome is a time to gather the children together, have them feel welcomed and get connected with the leader and their friends.

You want to create a safe environment where children are having fun, everyone is involved and want to invite their friends.

Discipleship continues as personal interaction can happen with the KidConnect time and following up on previous answers to Hand Questions. The Bible story is told in ways that children can imagine being there. There is community through small group interaction and connecting with God through worship and His Word.

This is a time to show love and care while discipling the children with God's Word and in response to the Spirit's leading.

Bring the club meeting to a close, creating enthusiasm to return with testimonies and friends.



IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1-24

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

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

What is something you have made that you really like?

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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. This book is called the Bible. What follows is the story of how God created the world we live in. Use your imagination as we briefly tell His Story!

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

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 Five!

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!

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Balloon or Ball Toss:

Have the children get into circles of about 8. Have them toss the balloon or ball from one to another either as the music is going or when you have said, “GO.” When you stop the music or say “STOP,” whoever has the balloon has to say the next part of the story. For some added fun, try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was God feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like God when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Adam and Eve when you first opened your eyes?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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!

Thank you LifeChurch for producing and allowing us to share these videos. The Bible Adventure curriculum from the LifeKids Team brings all the elements your preschoolers love best—like songs, animated characters, and an interactive host—together in a two-year curriculum designed to work in tandem with the stories in Bible App for Kids.



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THE FIRST SIN

Genesis 3:1-24

QUICK 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, you still want to stay Biblically accurate.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

"Adam!" God called. "Eve!"

"We're hiding," Adam said. "We are 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, having babies will be painful. Adam, growing food will be difficult."

Then God made clothes for Adam and Eve from the lamb and sent them out of the garden. He put an angel with a flaming sword there so they could not return.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were Adam and Eve feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like them when _____. I wonder what God was thinking and feeling.
4. What would you have done if you were Adam, Eve or God?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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 Bible story and choose to follow You.

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TWO BY TWO

Genesis 6:5-9; 17

QUICK 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 children engage in the telling of the story.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's 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 boy, one girl. Then Noah, his family and the animals went into the boat. God shut the door.

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 waters. 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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. 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 object has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Noah feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Noah when _____.
4. How would you have felt if you were Noah?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?

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

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.

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ABRAHAM'S BIG TEST

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

QUICK TIP: 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 Background.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

What is something 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?!

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

God chose a man named Abraham to start a nation that God would bless and God would call His special people. These children and 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.

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

God promised Abraham a son and from that son many families 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 a certain mountain 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.

"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 Abraham raised the knife over Isaac, an angel called his name: "Abraham! Don't hurt the boy! God knows you trust Him. 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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Musical Chairs

Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Abraham feeling in our story today? How about Isaac? Sometimes I feel like Abraham or Isaac when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Abraham or Isaac? How about if you were Sarah?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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

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THE DREAMER

Genesis 37; 39:1-6

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Describe a dream that you have had.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Objects

Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Joseph feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Joseph when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Joseph?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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DREAMS COME TRUE

Genesis 39-45

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Share a time when someone was really mean to you.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

"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!"

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.”

2. Story Review

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

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Joseph and his brothers feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Joseph when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Joseph?
5. How did Joseph show He wanted to honor God? How can you?
6. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 7.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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A BABY AND A BUSH

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

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

"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!"

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Sound Effects and Motions

Re-read the Bible story and come up with different sound effects and/or motions for words or actions that repeat throughout the story.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were Moses and the Israelites feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like them when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Moses?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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A VOICE IN THE NIGHT

1 Samuel 1; 2:11; 3

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Partners

Have the children get into smaller groups of 2 to 3 children. Each child will take a turn retelling the story to the others.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Samuel feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Samuel when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Samuel?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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 God.

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STONES, SLINGS & GIANT THINGS

1 Samuel 17

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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 where he died. The Israelites defeated the Philistines. With God's help, David was a hero!

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Musical Chairs

Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was David feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like David when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were David?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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. You will help each of us to knock down the things that stand between you and us.

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A ROARING RESCUE

Daniel 6:16-23

QUICK 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!

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Balloon or Ball Toss

Have the children get into circles of about 8. Have them toss the balloon or ball from one to another either as the music is going or when you have said, "GO." When you stop the music or say "STOP," whoever has the balloon has to say the next part of the story. For some added fun, try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Daniel feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Daniel when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Daniel?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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THE BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL QUEEN

Esther 2-5; 9:20-22

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

Esther was an orphan which means she did not have a mom or dad who could care for her. She lived with her uncle Mordecai. They were refugees because they had been captured and taken from Israel to Persia. Esther and Mordecai were Jewish which means they were some of the people who were specially chosen by God. Because of her beauty, Esther was made Queen when Xerxes selected her to be his wife.

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

Esther was the Queen of Persia. Even her husband, the King, didn't know her secret. Esther was Jewish. Esther's uncle, Mordecai, worked at the palace and looked out for her. The king had an advisor named Haman who 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 the King that the Jews were dangerous and should die. The King 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. The King was amazed by her beauty and invited her in. "Can we have dinner with Haman?" she asked.

Haman was building a big gallows in his backyard. 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 the King. "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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Story Parts

Give each child a certain scene of the story for them to draw. Have the children put the story in order by the drawings that have been made. The children can then retell the story by using the pictures they have drawn.

2. 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 object has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Esther feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Esther when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Esther?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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, loving and serving each other, with gladness and joy.

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THE FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT

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

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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!

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

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 Pilled 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!

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Musical Chairs

Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were Mary, Joseph and the shepherds feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Mary, Joseph or a shepherd when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Mary and Joseph or one of the shepherds?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

Thank you God for sending Jesus to show us your love. Let these children be like Mary and be 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!

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A TEST IN THE DESERT

Matthew 4:1-11

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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?

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. 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, and whatever number appears, you count clockwise that number of children. That child now continues retelling the story until the signal is given, etc.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Jesus feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like Jesus when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Jesus?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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THE KING AND HIS KINGDOM

Matthew 5-7

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Share a story about yourself and an adventure you have been on.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

Every country in the world has leaders to follow, rules 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.

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

"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."

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. Motions

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

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. I wonder what it was like for the people hearing Jesus teach. I wonder what they were feeling. How do you feel when you obey and when you disobey?
4. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 5.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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 because you are a kind and merciful God.

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THRU THE ROOF

Luke 5:17-26

QUICK TIP: 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 feels like they belong! You can start that with a smile.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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 was paralyzed which means he could not walk.

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

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!"

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. 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 object has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was the paralyzed man feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like that when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were the paralyzed man?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?

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

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.

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DEMONS DESTROYED

Mark 5:1-10

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Share a time when someone or something really scared you.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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!

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.”

2. Objects

Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was the man in our story feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like him when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were this man?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

Lord Jesus, You said You would bless us with Your power and authority; 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.

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THE BIG PICNIC

Mark 6:30-44

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Share a time when you were able to help someone. OR Share when you last ate your favorite food.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Story Review

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

2. Retell Activity Name

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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were the disciples and the crowd of people feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like them when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were them?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

Lord, I pray that You bless these children with a desire to give from the little 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.

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THE DONKEY AND THE KING

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

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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!"

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Balloon or Ball Toss

Have the children get into circles of about 8. Have them toss the balloon or ball from one to another either as the music is going or when you have said, “GO.” When you stop the music or say “STOP,” whoever has the balloon has to say the next part of the story. For some added fun, try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it.

2. Snap Chat

Write the story out on slips of paper that are numbered in the order they occur. Give the slips to different people and have them line up in order. When it is their turn, they are to tell their part in 3 different ways using expressions, motions and emotions.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Jesus feeling in our story today? How about the people in the crowd? Sometimes I feel like them when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were in the crowd?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

Lord, may these children never be quiet about praising You and letting others know about Jesus and 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.

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IT IS FINISHED

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

QUICK TIP: How well are the children in retelling the story to family and friends? At the close of your time with them, let them know you are going to ask the next time you get together. Then ask them at the beginning of when you meet.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Have each child share a time when they were really sad. What made them feel that way?

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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 object has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What part of today's story do you remember most?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was Jesus feeling in our story today? How about the disciples? Sometimes I feel like Jesus when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Jesus? How about the disciples?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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A HAPPY SUNDAY

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

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Tell us of a time when you were really happy.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

"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."

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were the women and the disciples feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like them when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were one of the characters in the story? How would you have reacted?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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GOD'S WONDERFUL GIFT

Acts 2:1-47

QUICK 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 each one individually. Have your lesson prepared but allow the Holy Spirit to work in each person's life - including your own!

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

Share a time when you were able to surprise someone.

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

"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.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Musical Chairs

Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were those following Jesus feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like them when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were one of Jesus' followers on that day?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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.

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EVERYBODY'S WELCOME

Acts 10

QUICK 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

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

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 at Pentecost. Peter baptized them.

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.”

2. 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, and whatever number appears, you count clockwise that number of children. That child now continues retelling the story until the signal is given, etc.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today’s story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How were Cornelius and Peter feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like them when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were Cornelius? What about if you were Peter?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

Read Psalm 105:1 to the children. Lord, bless these children with joy and courage to tell others about You. You want everyone to know about your Son, Jesus. Bless us with Your heart and words.

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A FOREVER PROMISE

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

QUICK 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!

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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!

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

"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."

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. 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.

2. 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.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. Did you imagine being there? What did you hear and see as the story was being told?
3. How was John feeling in our story today? Sometimes I feel like John when _____.
4. What would you have done if you were John?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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!

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GOD'S GOOD NEWS

QUICK TIP: Don't be afraid to share stories of what God 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.

OPENING: *a question that connects participants to the content and creates opportunities for vulnerability*

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

BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story, unique words, or other critical points*

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.

TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's 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 carrying out God's plan to fix our relationship with Him.

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?

RETELL: *use one or two activities to help everyone retain the story*

1. Story Review

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

2. Musical Chairs

Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

1. What was your favorite part of today's story?
2. What did you imagine as you were listening to the Bible story? What was important to you?
3. My feelings about this story are _____.
4. What would you have done if you were God?
5. I wonder what this story tells us about God. He is _____.
- 6.

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

1. I want to tell God that _____.
2. Today I learned _____.
3. I believe God is telling me to _____.
4. Who is someone you can share this Bible story with?
- 5.

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

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 Your plan to let others know how to become a member of God's family.

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Retell Activities and Descriptions

It is important to retell the Bible story after it's been told. So Children are engaged in the story and to help them in learning it well enough, so they can retell it to someone else.

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

■ ART

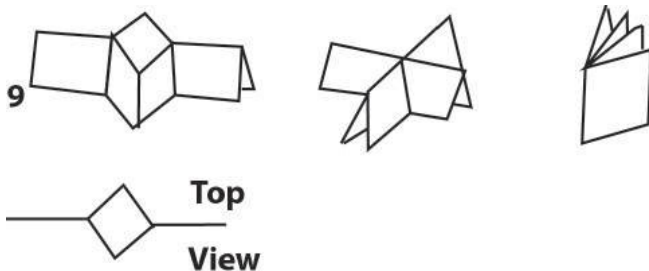
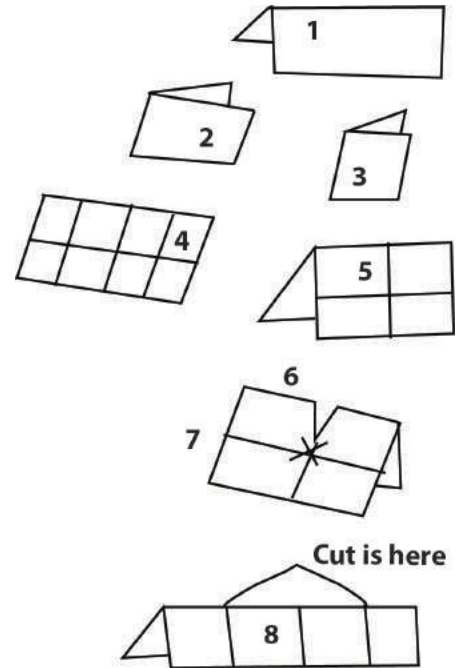
- **Drawing:** If you have the materials, have the children draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each child share their pictures with the rest of the group. If there are different scenes from the story, have the children put them in the order that they occurred.
- **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.
- **Story Parts:** Give each child a certain scene of the story for them to draw. Have the children put the story in order by the drawings that have been made. The children can then retell the story by using the pictures they have drawn.
- **Art Attack:** Use paper and coloring markers that are available. If the paper is big enough, have the 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.
- **Comic Strip:** 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.
- **Billboard:** Design a roadside billboard of the Bible story or how you see yourself connecting with it.
- **Pictionary:** Different parts of the story are randomly given out and each person needs to draw what they have been given until someone guesses what it is.
- **Graffiti Wall:** As a group, have the children write words or draw pictures which tell the story.
- **Tee Shirt Design:** Have each child 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 children draw it. You can use this simple picture as a way of reviewing the different Bible stories in weeks to come.
- **Book Cover Design:** Children design and draw their own book cover with words and pictures that best capture the different parts of the Bible story.
- **Storybooks:** The story is retold by the child through pictures and/or words in a storybook. See additional appendix page on how the children can create one.

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 are cut in half or thirds and stapled to form an 8, 12, or 16-page child-size Little Book.



Retell Activities and Descriptions

■ DRAMA / ARTS

- **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.
- **Retell** through a character's eyes.
- **Create a Song:** Create a song that will retell the Bible Story. You might use a song that the children are very familiar with and then change the words so it retells the Bible story. They can create an original song or possibly a rap song.
- **Partners:** Have the children get into smaller groups of 2 to 3 children. Each child will take a turn retelling the story. If someone gets stuck and can't remember the next part, the others in the group can help them.
- **Hand Motions:** Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.
- **Pantomime:** Divide the group into several smaller groups. Have one group act out the first part of the story without using words. The other groups have to say what is happening. The next group has to act out the next part of the story and the remaining groups tell what is happening. Continue till the story is retold. You may remind the group acting out the story if they don't remember what the next part is.
- **Puppets:** Create simple puppets from things like socks, paper plates, paper cups, sticks, etc and retell the story using these characters.
- **Objects:** Give each group 3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects but they must at least use the 3 objects given to them.
- **Wire & Clay:** Use these or other available craft items to build and retell the Bible story.
- **Charades:** Without using words, the kids act out the different scenes while the audience has to guess which part of the story they are doing.
- **Sound Effects & Motions:** Re-read the Bible story and come up with different sound effects and/or motions for words or actions that repeat throughout the story.
- **Object(s) (ie: scarf, rope),** See how many times they can use the object to tell the story. Another way is to give each group 3 different objects and they have to use them in retelling the story.
- **Motions:** Use different motions to illustrate each segment of the story. You can assign one motion to each child or small group and they need to demonstrate their motion in the order in which it comes in the story.
- **Human Slide Show:** Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two children 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.
- **Dance:** Retell the story through a dance with or without music and words.
- **Top Ten:** Have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.
- **Journals:** The children are given the opportunity to just quietly sit and journal what was in the story and what it meant to them.

Retell Activities and Descriptions

■ GAMES I

- **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.”
- **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.
- **Movers & Shakers:** Tossing a ball from one person to another while the music is playing. When the music stops, the person holding the ball (or knot in the rope if you are using a long rope that the child are holding and moving around in a circle) has to say the next part of the verse in the way you specify. Some examples could be:
 - At a normal pace
 - In fast forward while jogging in place
 - In a whisper while tiptoeing
 - Shouting while marching
 - In slow motion while jogging in slow motion
 - In a normal voice while walking backward
- **Musical Chairs:** Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.
- **Timing the Retell:** See if the group can retell the story in a specified amount of time.
- **Tingo Tingo Tango:** Have the children get into a circle. Pass an object around as you are saying “Tingo, Tingo, Tango.” When you get to “Tango,” whoever has the ball has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.
- **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.
- **Balloon or Ball Toss:** Have the children get into circles of about 8. Have them toss the balloon or ball from one to another either as the music is going or when you have said, “GO.” When you stop the music or say “STOP,” whoever has the balloon has to say the next part of the story. For some added fun, try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it.
- **Balloon Pop “Surprise”:** You will need enough balloons per group as there are segments to the story. Before doing this activity, write out the different segments of the Bible story on slips of paper. Put one slip in each of the balloons. Blow up the balloon and tie it off. Have the children get in a circle with the balloons in the center. When you tell them, have the children sit on a balloon until it pops. The children then take the slip of paper in the balloon and put them in order of the storyline.

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.*

- What did you like about today's Bible Story?
- How are the characters alike or different in the story?
- Who was in the story? Who was the main character?
- Did the characters make good or bad choices in the story? Why?
- Where does the story take place?
- What lesson did the characters learn in this story? What lesson can we learn?
- What does Jesus do in this story?
- How does Jesus treat the people in the story?
- Do you think ____ (character) liked the way the story ended? Why?
- What were you imagining as the story was being told? How did it make you feel?
- Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell as the story was told?
- Was there anything that was difficult or hard to understand? Was anything confusing?
- What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made?
- How are the characters alike or different in the story?

DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS

◆ Discover Questions - Heart (Feelings)



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

- Which character would you want to be your friend? Why?
- What is your favorite part of the story? Why?
- Which character is most like you? How?
- What did you like about the story? Is there anything you didn't like?
- What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
- What feelings did you have as you heard the story? How would you have felt if ... ?

DISCOVER & RESPONSE QUESTIONS

◆ Response Questions - Hands (Actions)



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

How should I apply the story to my life?

What does God want me, specifically, to do with what I have learned from the story?

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

- What did you learn from today's story?
- What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story? How can you put this insight into practice this week?
- Who can you share this story with this week?
- What should you do differently because of today's story?

POSSIBLE CORE QUESTIONS

- What was your favorite part of the story today? or What did you like in today's story?
- Who were the different people in today's story?
- I wonder what it was like for them to be part of God's Story?
- As you were listening to the story, and you imagined being there, what did you see? Did you hear or smell anything?
- How did the people in the story trust and follow God? or How did they not obey God?
- I wonder how it made God feel when they did this?
- I wonder why God put this story in the Bible?
- What did you learn about God today? I learned today that God is _____.
- After listening to today's Bible Story, God wants me to _____.

LESSON PLANNING SHEET

Opening:



- Choose a question or activity that children can share a personal story.
- Will the answer generate an emotion that the child had?
- Ask a question that needs an answer more than “Yes” or “No.”

Background:



- Are there words that need to be defined?
- Is the geographical location important to know?
- Are there events that happened before the story that are important to know?
- Are there cultural differences that would be important to explain?
- Are there things from previous stories that would be good to review?

Tell the Story:



- Can I involve the children in the story?
- Are there some dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging and interactive?
- Is there a visual object to show the group?
- Are there parts of the story that need to be crafted, like lists of names and places?
- Is the length of the story good for the children to learn so they can tell others?
- Is there a person in the story that I want to tell it from their experience?

Retell:



- What do my students really enjoy doing?
- Is there an activity that I have not used for a while that would engage the children?
- Are there enough supplies for all the children to participate?
- Are the children being Biblically accurate when they retell the Bible story?

Discover Questions:



- Have I prayed about this lesson to have an idea of where the Holy Spirit might lead this discussion?
- Do I have questions that engage the heart and not just the head?
- What part of the story will best relate to where the children are? Do I have questions to help move the discussion in that direction should the Holy Spirit lead that way?
- How will I end the lesson – what response question would be best?



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