



The Bible App
FOR KIDS

Parent Guides

Entire Series



In the Beginning

Creation of the world

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ Who created the heavens and the earth, and everything in them? (God)
- ★ What is the most special thing that God created? (man and woman)
- ★ What did God say when He looked at everything He had made? (“It’s very good!”)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

God is creative! He made everything and everyone carefully and uniquely. In fact, people have been created in His image. What a great purpose each one of us has here!



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

The Bible is God’s message to us. It is made up of many different stories that all work together to tell one big story, God’s Big Story. In the Bible, we learn that God created people to have a relationship with Him from the very beginning.



Memory Verse:

Then God *(point both hands up)*
looked over *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
all He had made *(pretend to form a ball with your hands),*
and He saw that it was very good *(draw a smile across your face)!*

Genesis 1:31a (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for creating everything, including each of us, carefully and with a purpose. Help me to grow in my purpose to know and love You.
Amen.





The First Sin

The Fall
Genesis 3:1-24



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who made the beautiful garden where Adam and Eve lived?** (God)
- ★ **How did Adam and Eve feel after they ate fruit from the forbidden tree?** (They felt shame. They hid and said they were naked.)
- ★ **How did God punish Adam and Eve?** (God told Adam that growing food would be difficult. He told Eve that having children would be painful.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, they disobeyed God. Sin is anything we say, think or do that displeases or disobeys God. God created rules to help protect us. One of the most important ways we can show God that we trust Him is by choosing to learn and follow His rules.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God created rules to help keep us safe. But the first man and woman didn't follow God's rules. They disobeyed God and this created a separation between God and people. But even after they sinned, God still loved Adam and Eve. He showed this by making clothes for them.



Memory Verse:

So the LORD God (*point both hands up*) banished them from the Garden of Eden (*cross arms at wrists with closed fists*), and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground (*hit fist twice on palm*) from which he had been made (*pretend to form a ball with your hands*).

Genesis 3:23 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for creating rules to help keep me safe. Help me stay strong against the temptation to sin. Instead, may I always choose to obey You.
Amen.





Two by Two

Noah and the flood

Genesis 6:5-9:17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did God decide to send a flood?** (to wash away everyone on earth, because people were sinning so much)
- ★ **How was Noah different than everyone else?** (Noah loved and obeyed God.)
- ★ **What did Noah take on the boat with him?** (male and female animals, and his family)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

God provided a way to keep Noah, his family and the animals safe during the flood. He gave Noah instructions to follow. Noah followed God's instructions and was kept safe during the flood. God loves us and provides ways to keep us safe, too.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God gave Noah faith to love and obey Him. He made a way to protect Noah from the flood. We all sin and deserve punishment. But God protects those who trust and obey Him today through faith in Jesus.



Memory Verse:

But Noah (*hand to chin as if stroking a beard*)
found favor (*raise praying hands over head*)
with the Lord (*point up*).

Genesis 6:8 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How great is Your love! You provided safety to Noah during the flood. And You provide safety for Your followers today, too. Help me to remember that I can always rest safely in You.
Amen.





God's Amazing Promise

Abraham is called by God
Genesis 12:1-9; 15:1-7



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did God say to Abraham when he said his wife, Sarah, was too old to have children?** (“Trust Me.”)
- ★ **What did Abraham do when God told him to go to another land?** (Abraham trusted God. He went where God told him to go.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Abraham trusted God, even though he didn't know where God was leading him. God was faithful to keep His promises to Abraham. We can trust in God, too. And He will be faithful to keep His promises to us.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Trusting God is the right thing to do, even when it's difficult. Abraham trusted God, and God was faithful to lead him to a new life in Canaan. God provides a way for each of us to have new life, too, when we choose to trust and follow Jesus.



Memory Verse:

“I will make you *(point forward)*
into a great nation *(raise hands slowly from the floor upward)*.
I will bless you *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)*
and make you famous *(throw hands up in the air)*,
and you will be a blessing to others *(sweeping motion with palms up)* ...
All the families on earth *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be blessed *(reach arm out with hand facing forward)* through you.”

Genesis 12:2, 3b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You have a plan for me. Help me to trust You to lead me and to ask for help when I don't know what to do.
Amen.





Abraham's Big Test

Abraham and Isaac

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



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **How did Abraham feel when God told him to kill Isaac as a sacrifice?** (He was confused, but he still trusted God.)
- ★ **What did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead?** (a ram)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Abraham loved his son. So he was confused when God told him to kill Isaac. But Abraham loved and trusted God completely, even in the midst of his confusion. Loving God does not mean things will always make sense and be easy. But trusting God means we can always know He will provide.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, but He provided a ram for Abraham to kill instead. In the same way, God provided the ultimate sacrifice for all of us: His Son, Jesus.



Memory Verse:

And Abram believed the LORD (*hand on heart, looking up*),
and the LORD counted him as righteous (*stand tall with one fist on chest*)
because of his faith (*bring hands together in heart shape*).

Genesis 15:6 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Just like You provided for Abraham and spared Isaac, I know You will do the same for me when I trust You. Help me to remember this even when I am confused and scared.
Amen.





The Dreamer

Joseph is sold into slavery
Genesis 37; 39:1-6



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did Joseph's brothers throw him into a well?** (They were jealous of Joseph. They hated him.)
- ★ **What else did Joseph's brothers do to him?** (They tore off his special coat. They sold him as a slave.)
- ★ **What happened to Joseph in Egypt?** (He was sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's captains. Joseph was put in charge of Potiphar's whole household. God blessed Joseph and made him successful.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Joseph's brothers hated him and ultimately sold him into slavery. But even though all these horrible things happened to Joseph, God was always with him. God helped Joseph by blessing him and making him successful.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

We all face hardship, struggles and sadness. But just as He was with Joseph during his hard times, in the same way we can trust that God will be with us.



Memory Verse:

Soon Joseph had another dream (close eyes and lay head on hands), and again he told his brothers about it (move index finger outward from lips).

"Listen (cup hand around your ear),

I have had another dream (close eyes and lay head on hands)," he said.

"The sun, moon, and eleven stars (flicker fingers above your head) bowed low before me!" (bow down)

Genesis 37:9 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How wonderful it is to know that You are always with us and watching over us. Help me to trust You when I face struggles.
Amen.





Dreams Come True

Joseph's rise to power

Genesis 39-45



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What special skill did God give Joseph?** (Joseph was wise and could interpret dreams.)
- ★ **What did Pharaoh do when Joseph correctly interpreted his dreams?** (He put Joseph in charge of storing up all the food.)
- ★ **How did Joseph respond when his brothers were scared of him?** (He said that God used his brothers' harm for good. Joseph shared food with them.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Trusting in and following God does not mean things will always be easy. But no matter how difficult things become, we can know that God sees us and will work everything for good.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God is always in control. No matter our challenges, hardships or circumstances, we can know that God is still at work, sees our suffering and will create good even when we cannot see it.



Memory Verse:

You *(point away from yourself)*
intended to harm me *(point to yourself)*,
but God *(point both hands up)*
intended it all for good *(thumbs up)*.
He *(point both hands up)* brought me *(point to yourself)*
to this position *(stomp your foot once)*
so I could save the lives of many people *(thumbs up)*.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You are powerful, and I am grateful that You are always in control. Help me trust in that truth even when pain and struggle come.
Amen.





A Baby and a Bush

The birth of Moses and the burning bush

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



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did Moses run away to Midian for forty years?** (He killed an Egyptian.)
- ★ **What did the voice of God say to Moses about His people?** (His people were suffering.)
- ★ **God told Moses that He had chosen him to free His people. What did God say when Moses said he could not do it?** (“I’ll help you.”)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

Moses was scared to talk to Pharaoh. But God assured Moses that he would not be alone. God would help him. No matter how powerful Pharaoh was, God was greater, and He would use Moses to free His people. God is still greater than all of our worries and fears. And He is still with His people today.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God saw the suffering of His people during the time of Moses and sees our suffering today, too. Just like God sent Moses to free His people from Pharaoh, God sent Jesus to free us from the punishment for sin.



Memory Verse:

“Now go *(extend arm, pointing forward)*!

I *(point up with both hands)* will be with you *(hug your shoulders)*

as you speak *(cup hands around your mouth)*,

and I will instruct you *(open your hands like a book)*

in what to say *(move index finger outward from lips).*”

Exodus 4:12 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

How grateful I am that You are a God that sees our suffering and cares enough to help us. With You, I am never alone. Help me remember that even when I am scared or afraid, You are with me. Amen.





Let My People Go

The Plagues and the Passover

Exodus 7:14-12:32



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What happened when Pharaoh did not listen or let the Israelites go free?** (God turned the water to blood, filled houses with frogs, the sky with gnats and the land with flies. Animals died, people became covered with sores, hail crushed crops, locusts ate the remaining food and darkness covered the land.)
- ★ **How did God protect the firstborn sons of His people, the Israelites, from death?** (He commanded them to sacrifice a lamb, eat it and put its blood on their doorposts.)
- ★ **What did Pharaoh do after his son died?** (Pharaoh let the Israelites go.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Pharaoh did not listen, so God punished Pharaoh. Finally Pharaoh let God's people go. In the midst of great suffering, God made a way to protect His people.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Lambs were sacrificed, and their blood protected every Israelite firstborn son from death. The punishment for sin is death and separation from God. But God provided a sacrifice for us, too – His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on a cross to save us from God's punishment for our sins.



Memory Verse:

This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews (*point up with both hands*), says:

Let my people go (*cross arms at wrists, then release*),
so they can worship me (*lift arms up into the air*).

Exodus 9:1b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

You were faithful to protect Your people even in the midst of suffering. Help me trust that You will be faithful to do the same for me.

Amen.





God Makes a Way

The parting of the Red Sea and the 10 Commandments
Exodus 14; 16:11-16; 17:1-7; 19-20; 34:1-9, 29-32



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did God do when Moses raised his staff toward the Red Sea?** (God sent a strong wind and parted the sea!)
- ★ **What did God give Moses on top of Mount Sinai?** (The Ten Commandments on two stone tablets)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

The Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses helped the people know how to love and obey God. God had made a way for the Israelites to safely escape slavery. Then He also made a way for them to know how to worship Him.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received instructions on how to love and obey God. Later, God's own Son, Jesus, would also provide more instructions on how to love and obey God. God is good. He always provides us with the guidance we need.



Memory Verse:

But Moses told the people (*cup hands around your mouth*),

“Don't be afraid (*shake head from side to side*).

Just stand still (*stand up straight and still*)

and watch the LORD rescue you today (*cross arms at wrists and move upward to release*).

The Egyptians you see today (*place hand over your brow and look around*)

will never be seen again (*cover your eyes with your hands*).

Exodus 14:13 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

You did not just save Your people from Pharaoh. You gave them their life's purpose by teaching them how to love and obey You. Help me to learn about and put these instructions to use in my own life that I might love You more.

Amen.





Waters Part and Walls Fall

Entering the Promised Land

Numbers 13-14; Joshua 2-3; 5-6



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Rahab do?** (She hid Joshua's spies and helped them escape down the wall.)
- ★ **What did the Lord tell Joshua to do?** ("For six days, march once around Jericho. Then, on day seven, march around seven times. Blow trumpets! Shout!")
- ★ **How did Joshua respond?** (Joshua trusted God and did what He told him to do.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Even though the other spies thought it was impossible, Joshua and Caleb said, "With God's help, we can do it!" Joshua also listened to, trusted and obeyed God, and God's people began to take the Promised Land. Rahab trusted God and was spared.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Joshua led God's people into the Promised Land even when it seemed impossible. Our sin makes new life and a relationship with God impossible. But Jesus, God's Son, made a way for those who choose to follow Him to have brand new life with God.



Memory Verse:

Suddenly, the walls (*hold arms out, bent at elbows*) of Jericho collapsed (*let arms fall outward*), and the Israelites charged (*stretch arm forward with fist*) straight into the town and captured it (*bring arms towards you*).

Joshua 6:20b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for making waters part and walls fall. Thank You also for sending Jesus to create a way for me to have new life with You.
Amen.





A Hairy Tale

Samson

Judges 13-16



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who did God choose to set His people free from the Philistines?** (Samson)
- ★ **What would happen to Samson if his hair was cut?** (His strength would go away.)
- ★ **What happened when Samson asked God to give him his strength back?** (God made him strong one last time.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Samson did not keep his promises to God. But God kept His promise to Samson. Just like Samson did, we can also go to God and ask for help even when we have failed.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God kept His promise to Samson. And we can know that God will keep His promises to us, too. This is because of Jesus, who came to save all who trust in Him.



Memory Verse:

"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son (*pretend to rock a baby in your arms*), and his hair must never be cut (*scissor fingers back and forth*).

For he will be dedicated to God (*bring hands together with palms up and raise them*) as a Nazirite from birth.

He will begin to rescue (*cross arms at wrists, then release*)

Israel from the Philistines."

Judges 13:5 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

You kept Your promise to Samson, even when he did not deserve it. Thank You for being faithful and keeping Your promises. Help me be strong as I try to keep my promises to You. Amen.





Wherever You Go

Ruth

Ruth 1-2, 4:9-17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Ruth do differently than Orpah?** (Ruth stayed with Naomi. Together, they went back to Israel.)
- ★ **What does a kinsman-redeemer do?** (He cares for his close relatives when someone dies.)
- ★ **Who became Ruth and Naomi's kinsman-redeemer?** (Boaz)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Ruth was selfless. Instead of starting over herself, she chose to travel back to Israel with Naomi. Both Ruth and Naomi were later helped by Boaz. He became Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. Those who trust in God have a kinsman-redeemer, too. Jesus!



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Boaz became a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth by caring for and protecting her. Jesus is the Kinsman-Redeemer for all who choose to believe in and follow Him. Jesus offers protection against the punishment we deserve for our sin and creates a way for us to know and have a relationship with God.



Memory Verse:

"Wherever you *(point forward)* live *(bring hands together above your head)*,
I *(point to yourself)* will live *(bring hands together above your head)*.
Your people *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be my people *(bring palms to your chest)*,
and your God *(point both hands up)*
will be my God *(point to your heart)*."

Ruth 1:16b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for blessing me with Jesus! I know that no matter what happens, I will always have my Kinsman-Redeemer looking out for me.
Amen.





A Voice in the Night

Samuel is called by God

1 Samuel 1; 2:11; 3



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who called out to Samuel during the night?** (The Lord)
- ★ **What did Eli tell Samuel to say?** (“Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.”)
- ★ **What did the Lord tell Samuel to do?** (The Lord told him to be His prophet and pass on His words faithfully to His people.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

Samuel did not know it was the Lord speaking to him at first. But when Eli told him it was the Lord, Samuel was ready to listen and obey. Samuel heard the Lord’s call and obeyed it faithfully for many years, until he was an old man.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

When Samuel received instructions from God, he chose to obey them. Jesus also did what God, His Father, sent Him to do, even unto death. Today, God’s followers still receive guidance from Him. We can learn how to obey God by reading His Word, the Bible.



Memory Verse:

And the LORD (*point both hands up*)
came and called as before (*cup hands around your mouth*),
“Samuel! Samuel!”

And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening (*cup hand around your ear*).”

1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for not leaving me alone without help or instructions. Help me to learn more about You and how You want me to live from Your Word.
Amen.





Stones, Slings and Giant Things

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16-17



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did God say He cares about?** (“I care about what’s in a person’s heart.”)
- ★ **What did David take with him to fight the giant, Goliath?** (Five stones and a sling)
- ★ **What happened when David threw a stone from his sling?** (The stone struck Goliath’s forehead and knocked him down.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

David was not afraid to face the giant, Goliath, because he knew that God was with him and would help him. With God’s help, David knocked Goliath down, and the Israelites defeated the Philistines.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

David defeated the giant, Goliath, and saved the Israelites. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to defeat sin by taking the punishment that we deserve. Jesus offers salvation to all who choose to believe in and follow Him.



Memory Verse:

“People *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)* judge by outward appearance *(smooth hands over shirt)*, but the LORD *(point both hands up)* looks at the heart *(bring hands together in heart shape)*.”
1 Samuel 16:7b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You are more powerful than any trouble or struggle that I face. Help me to remember that You are always with me, just like You were with David.
Amen.





Fire from Heaven

Elijah

1 Kings 16:29-17:1; 18:1, 17-39



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did the prophet Elijah say to King Ahab?** (“You have disobeyed God and worshipped Baal. Tell everyone to meet me on Mount Carmel. I will prove who the true God is!”)
- ★ **How did Elijah prove that God is the true God?** (Elijah prayed, and fire fell from heaven. It burned up the bull, the wood, the stones and the water!)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

God saw that His people were worshipping a false god. So, He sent help. God sent Elijah to show the people who the true God is.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God used Elijah to show His people that He is the one true God. Elijah prayed for the miracle of fire from heaven to prove it. Later, God would send His Son, Jesus, to perform many miracles to show that He is God. This included healing the sick, casting out demons and even bringing people back to life!



Memory Verse:

If the Lord is God (*point both hands up*),

follow him (*walk fingers across your palm*)!

But if Baal is God, then follow him (*trace a statue shape with two fingers*)!”

But the people (*with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them*)

were completely silent (*place one finger against your lips*).

1 Kings 18:21b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for being patient with Your people, including me. Help me to grow in knowledge about You as I read Your Word. Help me to worship and follow You only.

Amen.





A Roaring Rescue

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 1:1-4; 6



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why was Daniel arrested?** (He would not pray to King Darius. Daniel continued praying to God.)
- ★ **What happened to Daniel after he was arrested?** (He was thrown to the lions.)
- ★ **What did the angel that God sent do?** (The angel shut the lions' mouths.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Darius liked Daniel. But Darius had to punish Daniel because he broke the law. God sent help to Daniel. He sent angels to shut the lions' mouths.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Daniel was punished for breaking an unfair law. We all deserve punishment for breaking God's good law. Every person sins and disobeys God. Just as God sent help to Daniel, God had a plan to send help for all of us, too. Jesus died to take the punishment for sin that all of us deserve.



Memory Verse:

"My God (*point both hands up*) sent his angel (*stretch arms out like wings*) to shut the lions' mouths (*clap hands once*) so that they would not hurt me (*scrape fingers across chest and shake head*), for I have been found innocent (*place both palms over chest*) in his sight. And I have not (*shake finger "no"*) wronged you, Your Majesty (*slight bow*)." Daniel 6:22 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Just like You heard Daniel, I know You hear everyone who calls out to You—including me. Thank You for hearing me. Help me remember that I can always call on You.
Amen.





The Brave and Beautiful Queen

Esther

Esther 2-5; 7; 9:20-22



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Esther say when Mordecai told her to change the king's mind?** (“...He can have me killed.”)
- ★ **What did Mordecai tell Esther?** (“Perhaps you were made queen just for this moment.”)
- ★ **What happened to Haman at the end of the story?** (He was hanged on the gallows he’d built for Mordecai.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

Esther was probably very scared. People who went to see the king without being invited could be killed. But God had a plan. He had made Esther queen so that she could save the Jewish people, His people, from death.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Even though Esther was scared, God used her to save His people. God loved Esther and made her for a special purpose. God loves each of us and has a purpose for us, too.



Memory Verse:

“Who knows (*shrug your shoulders*)
if perhaps you (*point forward*)
were made queen (*pretend to place a crown on your head*)
for just such a time as this (*point down firmly*)?”

Esther 4:14b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Even when I am scared, I can know that You are in control of everything. Help me to be brave like Esther. Help me fulfill Your plan for my life, too.
Amen.





The Walls Go Up

Nehemiah and Ezra

Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15-16; 8:1-3; 10:28-29; 12:27



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Nehemiah say when he saw that things were even worse than he'd heard?** ("This will be a big job but, with God's help, we can rebuild these walls.")
- ★ **How did the enemies of God's people react?** (First, they laughed. But as the walls grew higher, they prepared to attack.)
- ★ **What did the people do when the wall was finished?** (They promised to obey God's law and praised Him for protecting them.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Nehemiah could have given up, but he did not. Nehemiah knew they could rebuild the walls with God's help. Nehemiah told the people this. Then, they worked together to get things done. It was not easy, but with God it was possible.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Nehemiah knew it would take a lot of work to rebuild the walls. But he also knew that God would help them. We can also know that God will help us when we choose to follow and obey Him.



Memory Verse:

"...The God of heaven *(point both hands up)* will help *(link index fingers together)* us succeed. We, his servants *(place one hand on chest and bow slightly)*, will start rebuilding this wall *(pound fists together)*."
Nehemiah 2:20a (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Help me to have the same kind of courage that Nehemiah did. Help me remember his example about the power of praying with others who also love You.
Amen.





The First Christmas Gift

Jesus is born

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



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did the angels tell Mary and Joseph?** (Mary would have a baby who would be God's Son.)
- ★ **What good news did the angel tell the shepherds?** ("Your Savior has been born.")

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

A savior is someone who rescues someone else. Sin creates a separation between us and God that we cannot repair. Thankfully, God loved us enough to send Jesus, our Savior, to save us from our sin and bring us back to Him.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Sin separates us from God. But God loves us so much that He made a plan to bring us back to Him. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.



Memory Verse:

The Savior (*reach both hands high in the air and look up*)

—yes, the Messiah, the Lord (*point both hands up*)—

has been born (*pretend to rock a baby in your arms*)

today in Bethlehem, the city of David (*point forward*)!

Luke 2:11 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for making a way for me to know and love You. Thank you for sending Jesus to be my Savior.

Amen.





The Beloved Son

Jesus is baptized

Matthew 3:1-3, 13-17; Luke 3:15-16; John 1:29; Malachi 3:1



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did John tell the people to do?** (“Change your ways. Turn from the bad things you have done. Be baptized.”)
- ★ **What did John say when Jesus came to be baptized?** (“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!”)
- ★ **Who did God say Jesus was when He was baptized?** (God said Jesus is His beloved Son.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

John knew that Jesus was the special One whom God had sent. That’s why John wanted Jesus to baptize him. But, instead, Jesus told John to baptize Him. And John trusted Him, believing it was the right thing to do.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

John told people to turn from the bad things they had done and be baptized. Baptism is a way to show the washing away of sin. It’s also a way of showing that you want to follow and obey God. Jesus, who is God’s Son, is also called the Lamb of God. He can take our sins away completely.



Memory Verse:

“Look! *(place hand over your brow and look around)*

The Lamb of God *(put hands together, palms up, and raise up)*

who takes away *(pretend to grab something)*

the sin of the world! *(make a big circle in front of you with hands).”*

John 1:29b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Help me trust Him and do what He says. Please give me strength to change my ways and follow You.

Amen.





A Test in the Desert

Jesus is tempted

Matthew 4:1-11



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus use to resist Satan when he tried to tempt Him?** (God's Word, the Bible)
- ★ **What happened after Satan left Jesus?** (Angels came and cared for Jesus.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Satan tempted Jesus many times. But Jesus never sinned, not even once. Jesus knew how to resist Satan and temptation by depending on God and what God says.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus was tempted just like we are. When we are tempted to do things our own way instead of God's way, we can follow Jesus' example. He resisted temptation by depending on God and His Word.



Memory Verse:

People *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*

do not live by bread alone *(pretend to eat),*

but by every word *(open your hands like a book)*

that comes from the mouth of God *(point both hands up).*

Matthew 4:4b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

I know temptation will come. But I also know that You will not leave me helpless. Thank You for always providing a way out of temptation. Thank You for giving me Your Spirit and Your Word.

Amen.





The King and the Kingdom

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 4:23-7:29; John 18:36-37



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who is the King?** (Jesus)
- ★ **What people are part of His kingdom?** (Those who put God first in their life, trust Him, and obey Him are part of His kingdom.)
- ★ **In the story Jesus told, what happened to the house built on the sand?** (It fell down with a crash.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus said that we can be like the man who built his house on the rock by putting Jesus' words into action. God wants to make our hearts like His. This happens when we trust Jesus and let His words guide our own hearts, choices and actions.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

While on earth, Jesus taught people how to love God and love each other. He taught us that we can trust God to take care of us.



Memory Verse:

Anyone who listens to my teaching (*cup hand around your ear*)
and follows it is wise (*point to your head*),
like a person who builds a house (*bring fingertips together above your head*)
on solid rock (*pound one fist on the other palm*).

Matthew 7:24 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be my hope and help. Worry and fears will come. Help me to remember to choose to trust in You when they do.
Amen.





Through the Roof

Jesus heals a paralytic man

Luke 5:17-26



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus tell the man who couldn't walk?** (His sins were forgiven.)
- ★ **Why were the religious leaders very unhappy?** (They grumbled that only God can forgive sins.)
- ★ **What happened to the man who couldn't walk?** (Jesus forgave his sins. Jesus healed him. He could walk.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus did not just say that He is God. Jesus showed that He is God. Jesus proved that He is God by doing things that only God has the power to do.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

While on earth, Jesus performed many miracles, like healing the sick. Jesus did things that only God can do, like forgiving sin. This is how Jesus demonstrated that He is God.



Memory Verse:

Seeing their faith (*bring hands together in heart shape*),

Jesus (*touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch*)

said to the man (*cup hands around mouth*),

"Young man, your sins are forgiven (*slide one hand across the other, flip and repeat*)."

Luke 5:20 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

I am grateful that You have the power to heal our bodies from sickness and to forgive sin in our hearts. Help me grow to love and obey You more.

Amen.





Demons Destroyed

Jesus casts out evil spirits

Mark 5:1-20



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus do to the man who had all the evil spirits inside of him?** (Jesus made him well. Jesus commanded all the evil spirits to leave him.)
- ★ **What did the evil spirits ask Jesus to do?** (send them into the herd of pigs)
- ★ **What did Jesus tell the man to do?** (Jesus told him to stay and tell everyone what He had done.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus has power that only God has. Even the evil spirits knew who Jesus was. They were scared of Jesus' great power and had to obey Him.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus showed who He is by doing things that only God can do. Only God can cast out evil spirits by just the power of His word. Jesus only spoke, and the man was healed.



Memory Verse:

A crowd soon gathered (*extend arms, then bring in to yourself*) around Jesus, and they saw (*place hand over your brow and look around*) the man who had been possessed (*cross fists tightly over chest*) by the legion of demons. He was sitting there (*relax arms down, palms out*) fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid (*gasp with wide eyes as if afraid*).

Mark 5:15 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Your power is great and so is Your love. Thank You for making the man well. Help me to remember that You have the power to help me also.
Amen.





Time to Get Up

Jesus heals a girl
Luke 8:40-42, 49-56



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus say to Jairus when he was told his daughter was dead?** (“Don’t be afraid. Believe, and your daughter will be healed.”)
- ★ **What did Jesus say about the girl when He saw the people weeping?** (Jesus said the girl was not dead. He said she was only sleeping.)
- ★ **What happened when Jesus took the girl’s hand and told her to stand up?** (She got up and walked around the room.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

More than one person had already seen that Jairus’ daughter was dead. But Jesus brings the power of God. He told Jairus to believe and his daughter would be healed. And that is what happened!



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Only God has the power to bring people back to life. Jesus showed that He is God by bringing people back to life, like Jairus’ daughter.



Memory Verse:

But when Jesus heard *(cup hand around your ear)* what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid *(float shaking hands over chest)*. Just have faith *(bring hands together in heart shape)*, and she will be healed *(from top of head, sweep hands quickly down and out)*.”

Luke 8:50 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How grateful I am to know that You help those who believe in You. Help me trust in You like Jairus did.
Amen.





The Big Picnic

Jesus feeds 5,000

Mark 6:30-44



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Why did Jesus not send the people away like His disciples asked?** (Jesus wanted to show the people that they could trust God.)
- ★ **What did the little boy give Jesus?** (five loaves of bread and two little fish)
- ★ **How many people did Jesus feed?** (5,000 men plus women and children)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

The little boy had very little. But He gave it to Jesus. God showed that the people could trust Him to take care of them. Using only the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, Jesus provided enough for everyone to eat until they were full. There was even food leftover!



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus did something great with the very small amount of food the little boy gave Him. God showed the people that they could trust Him to provide for their needs, even when it seemed impossible. God also showed that He can do amazing things with even the smallest things we give Him.



Memory Verse:

A total of 5,000 men *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)* and their families *(pretend to place hand on top of imaginary children's heads)* were fed *(pretend to eat)*.

Mark 6:44 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for being faithful. Thank You for being a God who cares and provides for my needs. Help me remember this and trust You always.
Amen.





Coming Home

A father and his two sons

Luke 15:11-32



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did the younger son do with the money his father gave him?** (He wasted all of it.)
- ★ **What did the older son do when the younger son returned?** (He complained that it was not fair.)
- ★ **What did the father say to the older son about his brother?** (“Your brother was dead; now he’s alive! He was lost; now he’s found!”)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

Jesus told this story to the religious leaders to teach them about God’s love. When a sinner turns back to God, God shows His love to the sinner, just like the father showed love to his son in the story.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Like the younger son in this story, we are all lost and dead in sin until we return to the Father who created us and loves us. God rejoices when His children choose to change their ways and follow Him.



Memory Verse:

“For this son of mine was dead (rest one forearm on top of the other) and has now returned to life (pivoting at the elbow, slowly raise the top forearm).

He was lost (look around with hand over brow),

but now he is found (hug yourself).”

So the party began (dance and celebrate).

Luke 15:24 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
How grateful I am to know You! Help me as I try to help others come to know You, too.
Amen.





The Donkey and the King

The triumphal entry

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



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus tell two of His disciples to find?** (a donkey)
- ★ **Why did people put cloaks and palm branches on the road before Jesus?** (to honor Him)
- ★ **What did Jesus say would happen even if the people stopped shouting?** (the stones would still praise Him)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus is the King that God promised would come. When Jesus rode in on the donkey, He was showing the people who He was. They honored Him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the King of Israel!"



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Where Jesus is, God is. Jesus brings God's power. He fulfilled promises that God had made to His people, too. This proves that Jesus is the King of Israel, the promised Savior!



Memory Verse:

"Tell *(cup hands around your mouth)* the people of Jerusalem, 'Look *(place hand over your brow and look around)*, your King *(pretend to place a crown on your head)* is coming to you. He is humble *(fold hands together on chest and bow your head)*, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt *(pretend to hold a rope with both hands)*.'" Matthew 21:5 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You are a faithful God. You keep Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus! By Your love and power, help me to keep my promise to obey and follow You.
Amen.





A Goodbye Meal

The last supper

Matthew 26:14-16; John 13:26-30; Mark 14:12-26



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus say to His disciples about the bread at the meal?** (Jesus said the bread was His body. It was given for them.)
- ★ **What did Jesus say about the cup?** (Jesus said the drink was His blood. It was poured out to forgive sins.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus shared this last meal with His disciples to show them what was going to happen at the cross. Soon, Jesus would give His own life to save many. Jesus would willingly pour out His own blood by dying so that our sins could be forgiven.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus told His disciples to remember Him when they ate the bread. He wants us to remember that He gave His body and blood on the cross. He freely died to take the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven.



Memory Verse:

As they were eating (*pretend to eat*),
Jesus took some bread and blessed it (*hold hands palms up and look up*).
Then he broke it in pieces (*pretend to break bread*)
and gave it (*pretend to pass bread out to others*) to the disciples,
saying, "Take it, for this is my body (*trace two fingers down the sides of your torso*)."

Mark 14:22 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for making a way so that I can be forgiven. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who took the punishment I deserve.
Amen.





In the Garden

Jesus is arrested

Matthew 26:31-75; John 18:1-8



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Jesus say would happen before the rooster crowed?** (Peter would say that he didn't know Jesus three times.)
- ★ **What did Jesus pray to the Father in the garden?** (Jesus prayed that God would show Him another way. If there was no other way, He would do as God asked.)
- ★ **After Jesus was arrested, how did Peter answer when people asked him if he had been with Jesus?** (Peter denied it. He told them they were wrong.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him. He also knew that His enemies wanted Him dead. Jesus knew that dying was part of God's plan for Him, too. But Jesus showed that He was willing to obey God—even if that meant giving up His life.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God's way may not always be easy, but it is always right. The pain Jesus felt was very hard. He even asked God to show Him another way. But Jesus was willing to obey God no matter what. We benefit from Jesus' obedience to God. By trusting Him, we can receive the free gift of forgiveness that He offers. We can also learn from Jesus' example to be obedient to God always.



Memory Verse:

"My Father (*praying hands, looking up!*)

If it is possible, let this cup of suffering (*draw tears down face with your finger*)

be taken away from me (*pretend to push something away*).

Yet I want your (*point up*) will to be done,

not mine (*place hands on chest, and shake head*)."

Matthew 26:39b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

How grateful I am that Jesus was faithful to obey You. Because of His dying on the cross for my sins, I can know, love and follow You. Help me follow Jesus' example of obedience by walking in Your ways.

Amen.



The Bible App
FOR KIDS

Download the free app today!
Bible.com/kids



It is Finished

The Cross

John 18:28-19:42; Luke 23:34-35, 44-45



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Pilate say about Jesus?** (Jesus was innocent, and there was no reason to kill Him.)
- ★ **What was Jesus nailed onto?** (a cross)
- ★ **What was the last thing Jesus said on the cross?** ("It is finished.")

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus could have saved Himself. But He loves us so much that He willingly died. Jesus did not deserve to die, but He chose to die to pay the debt we owed for our sins.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus never sinned. He did not deserve to die. But Jesus willingly died on a cross to pay the price for our sins. He died to fix the sin problem that we could not fix ourselves.



Memory Verse:

When Jesus (*touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch*) had tasted it (*make sipping sound*), he said, "It is finished!" (*hold arms straight out on either side*) Then he bowed his head (*bow your head*) and gave up his spirit (*hands from chest to reaching high*).
John 19:30 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear Lord,
How thankful I am for Your great love. Thank You for dying for my sins. You show me what real love looks like. Help me show that kind of love, too.
Amen.





A Happy Sunday

The empty tomb

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



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did the women find when they went to Jesus' tomb?** (It was empty. The stone had been moved away. There were angels there.)
- ★ **What is the Good News about Jesus coming back to life?** (Everyone's sins can now be forgiven if they turn to God and trust in Jesus.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus offers us the greatest gift. We can accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness by repenting or saying "no" to sin and by believing in Jesus.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus paid the price we owe for our sins. When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed that the debt made by sin had been paid in full for each person who chooses to trust and follow Him.



Memory Verse:

"The time (pretend to tap a wristwatch) promised by God (point both hands up) has come (beckon with hand) at last! ...

The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins (sweep arms out in front of you) and believe (bring hands together in heart shape) the Good News!"

Mark 1:15 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for willingly paying the price for my sins. I believe You died and came back to life. I want the new life that only You can give me. I accept the free gift of forgiveness. I want to love, follow and obey You.

Amen.





Into the Clouds

Jesus returns to heaven

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:4-12



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What were the last things Jesus said?** (“Tell everyone about Me.” “I will always be with you.”)
- ★ **What did the two angels tell the disciples about Jesus?** (“He will come back in the same way!”)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child’s understanding:

We are never alone. God’s Holy Spirit lives inside those who follow Jesus. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, guiding us to listen to, learn from and obey God.



Explore God’s Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God’s Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He sent His Holy Spirit to help us. While we wait for Jesus’ return, it is important to share the Good News about Jesus with others.



Memory Verse:

Jesus (*touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch*)
has been taken from you into heaven (*lift arms up slowly*),
but someday he (*point up*)
will return from heaven (*slowly bring arms down to the ground*)
in the same way you saw (*place hand over your brow and look around*) **him go!**
Acts 1:11b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I am thankful to be part of Your great story. Help me share Jesus with others, so that they can come to know Your love, too.
Amen.





God's Wonderful Gift

The Holy Spirit comes

Acts 2:1-47



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What happened when God's promised gift arrived?** (There was a sound like howling wind, something like fire settled on each of Jesus' followers and God's Holy Spirit filled them.)
- ★ **What did God's Holy Spirit give them the power to do?** (speak different languages)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus had died willingly on the cross and had come back to life! Everyone who believes in Jesus could now be forgiven for their sins! But not everyone knew this Good News. So, God sent His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers to share the Good News of Jesus with others. The Holy Spirit is with Jesus' followers today, too.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

After Jesus returned to heaven, God sent His Holy Spirit to help His followers spread the Good News about Jesus. Today, people are still hearing this Good News through the words and actions of His followers and through God's Word, the Bible.



Memory Verse:

And everyone present *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)* was filled *(slowly move hands from your sides upwards)* with the Holy Spirit and began speaking *(move index finger outward from lips)* in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them *(extend hands forward, palms up)* this ability.

Acts 2:4 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
Thank You for the Good News we have in Jesus! Send Your Holy Spirit to help me to share this Good News with others so that they can know Him, too.
Amen.





No Silver, No Gold

A crippled man is healed

Acts 3:1-4:4



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Peter give the crippled man that was better than money?** (Peter healed him in the name of Jesus Christ.)
- ★ **What did the man do after he was healed?** (He jumped around and praised God!)
- ★ **What did many of the people do when they heard whose power had healed the man?** (They decided to follow Jesus, too.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Peter performed a miracle. He healed the crippled man! But Peter gave Jesus all the credit. Peter knew that it was not his own power that healed the man. It was the power of God!



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Peter healed a man through the power of Jesus' name. But the crippled man was not the only person who was helped. When they found out who had healed the man, many people decided to follow Jesus too. Today, Jesus' followers can still call upon the name of Jesus for help.



Memory Verse:

But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you (*show empty hands and shake head*).

But I'll give you (*extend hands forward, palms up*) what I have.

In the name of Jesus Christ (*touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch*) the Nazarene,

get up (*move hands from floor upward*) and walk! (*walk in place*)"

Acts 3:6 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,

I am thankful that you are a mighty God who helps others! Help me to follow and obey you. And help me to show love toward others, too.

Amen.





From Enemy to Friend

Paul meets Jesus

Acts 9:1-19



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **Who stopped Saul on his way to Damascus?** (Jesus)
- ★ **What happened after Ananias prayed for Saul?** (Saul could see again! Then he was baptized.)
- ★ **How did Saul change when he became a follower of Jesus?** (He became a church leader and told everyone about Jesus. He changed his name to Paul.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Ananias trembled when Jesus told him to go pray for Saul. He knew that Saul wanted to arrest Jesus' followers, but Ananias still obeyed God. Jesus changed Saul from a man who arrested and even killed Christians to a man who helped spread the Good News about Jesus.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Meeting Jesus changed Paul completely. God's love is so great that there is nothing anyone can do that He cannot forgive. Through faith in Jesus, God is able to help us change.



Memory Verse:

But the Lord *(point both hands up)* said, "Go *(extend arm, pointing forward)*, for Saul *(touch top of head)* is my chosen instrument to take my message *(cup hands around your mouth)* to the Gentiles *(open one hand palm up)* and to kings *(open the other hand palm up)*, as well as to the people *(with palms up lace fingers together and wiggle them)* of Israel."

Acts 9:15 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
You changed Paul into a new person inside. You changed a man filled with hate into a man who spread the news of Jesus' great love. Thank You that you can change me on the inside, too!
Amen.





Everybody's Welcome!

Peter's vision and Cornelius

Acts 10



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Peter see in his vision?** (He saw a huge sheet coming down from heaven filled with animals that Jews weren't allowed to eat.)
- ★ **What did Peter tell Cornelius, his family and his friends about God?** (God accepts people from every nation. God sent Jesus to everyone.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

God's people, the Jews, did not eat certain animals. But in Peter's a vision God told him that it was okay to eat these animals. This meant that anyone could be part of God's family, even if they did not keep the same rules that the Jews did. Jesus died so that all people can be forgiven from their sins.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Peter told Cornelius and his friends that God's love is not just for a select few. God sent His gift of the Holy Spirit to Jews and Gentiles alike. God's love and the forgiveness is available to everyone who chooses to believe in Jesus. God welcomes everyone!



Memory Verse:

He (*touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch*) is the one all the prophets testified about (*cup hands around your mouth*), saying that everyone who believes (*bring hands together in heart shape*) in him will have their sins forgiven (*slide one hand across the other, flip and repeat*) through his (*touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch*) name.

Acts 10:43 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I am grateful that You welcome everyone! Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to make me part of Your family.
Amen.





Journeys for Jesus

Paul's journey and trials

Acts 13-14; 16; 20-21; 25; 27-28



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did Paul believe God wanted him to do?** (tell the Gentiles about Jesus)
- ★ **What happened to Paul after he was unfairly arrested?** (He was shipwrecked on his journeyed to Rome. Then he lived in Rome as a prisoner.)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Paul knew that God wanted him to spread the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. He was committed to do this, even when he was a prisoner in chains. Nothing could stop God from using Paul to fulfill His purpose, and nothing could stop Paul from obeying God's plan for his life.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

God used Paul's time in prison to inspire Paul to write some of the books of the Bible. God can use the hard times we go through in our lives today to fulfill His plan for us.



Memory Verse:

For the next two years *(raise two fingers)*,
Paul lived in Rome *(bring fingertips together above your head)* at his own expense.
He welcomed *(smile and wave)* all who visited him,
boldly proclaiming *(cup hands around your mouth)*
the Kingdom of God *(point both hands up)*
and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ *(touch your middle finger to the other palm, then switch)*.
And no one *(shake head)* tried to stop him *(stretch arm forward with hand out)*.
Acts 28:30-31 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
It is amazing to know that nothing can stop the plan You have for my life. When I feel stuck or worried, help me to remember that You are always in control.
Amen.





A Forever Promise

The new heaven and the new earth
Revelation 1:17-18; 21:1-7



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What did John see in his vision?** (Jesus showed John a new heaven and a new earth and God's Holy City, the new Jerusalem.)
- ★ **What will be gone forever in the new heaven and new earth?** (There will be no tears, pain or death.)
- ★ **Who did Jesus say the new world is for?** (His children, those who are faithful to Jesus)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

Jesus shared a wonderful promise with John that is for all people who choose to trust in Jesus and follow Him. In our world today, we experience pain, sorrow and death. But these things will not be part of the new heaven and new earth!



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

The end of God's Big Story is really a new beginning with Jesus in a brand new heaven and earth made by God. When we turn away from our sin and trust in Jesus, we can know that this future promise and new beginning is for us, too.



Memory Verse:

"To all (extend hands out in a broad sweeping gesture) who are thirsty (pretend to drink) I will give freely (extend your hands forward, palms up) from the springs of the water (make a wave motion with your hands) of life (make a circular motion over your heart)."

Revelation 21:6b (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
What a wonderful future You have in store for Your children! When I feel pain and sadness, help me to know that one day I will live with You in a brand new heaven and earth where there is no more suffering.
Amen.





God's Good News

Be Part of the Story



Review and Discussion:

Challenge your child to retell the story. Help him or her remember key details by asking the following questions:

- ★ **What brought death into the world and broke our relationship with God?** (*sin; when Adam and Eve disobeyed God*)
- ★ **What did God do because He loved us?** (*God had a plan. He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to fix our relationship with God that sin had broken.*)
- ★ **What did Jesus do that proved He broke the power of sin and death?** (*Three days after He died on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead!*)

Read the following thought aloud to help increase your child's understanding:

God loves all the people He created—including YOU! Are you ready to be part of God's story? You can become part of His family by trusting in Jesus and following Him.



Explore God's Big Story:

Together, discover how this specific lesson ties into God's Big Story. Read the following aloud to your child:

Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He sent God's Holy Spirit to be with us and help us live the way God wants us to live. We also have God's Word, the Bible. We can read it to learn more about God's Big Story, His love, and His plan for our lives.



Memory Verse:

For this is how God (*point both hands up*) loved the world (*cross arms over your chest*): He gave his one and only Son (*hold one finger up and move forward*), so that everyone (*with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them*) who believes (*bring hands together in heart shape*) in him will not perish (*hang head*) but have eternal life (*raise hands up toward heaven*).

John 3:16 (NLT)



Talk to God:

Dear God,
I have disobeyed You. But I believe Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment that I deserve. I believe that He came back to life three days later, proving that He fully paid the price that I owed. I am yours! Help me to learn more about You and act more like Jesus.
Amen.

