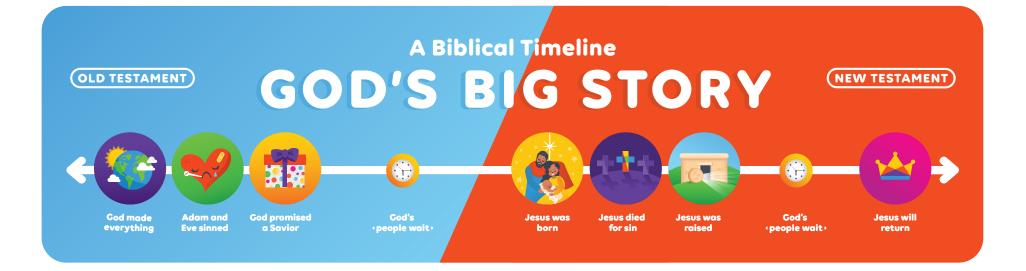




Foundational Truths

Practiced for over 1,500 years, the Church calendar serves as a way to order our lives around the Christian story. Inspired by the annual feasts and celebrations of God's people throughout the Old Testament, the calendar can be traced all the way back to the early Church, when Christians began establishing rhythms and rituals based on the one story of Scripture. The gatherings, the practices and the traditions of the seasons help us remember the one true story of the Bible—who God is and what He has done in Jesus Christ —and help us to live in that story every day as the people of God.

We teach who God is and what He has done in Jesus Christ in Little Village by highlighting one of five foundational truths each week: God Made Everything, God Is in Charge of Everything, God Is Good, Jesus Came to Save Sinners and God Wants to Talk With Us. Our hope and prayer is that this year you may orient your family around these truths as you gather to remember the one true story of the Bible.



God's Big Story Timeline

Throughout the Bible, we see an overarching timeline of God's work, sometimes referred to as the metanarrative. During the course of the year, we refer back to this timeline at various points to help your child gain an understanding of how each narrative fits into God's Big Story. We hope that by providing a copy for you to use at home, you can continue to help your child grow in their understanding of not only when things happened but also how we are still waiting with hope for Christ's promised return.

GLOSSARY

TERMS FOR TEACHING

ANGEL – a mighty messenger and warrior from God

BAPTISM – to dip someone under some water and bring them back up like Jesus died and was raised to back to life—to show everyone that God has given them a new, healthy heart like Jesus

BIBLE – God's true Word. It is from God and about God.

A CHURCH – a group of people who love and trust Jesus

THE CHURCH – everyone who loves and trusts Jesus

COMMUNION – when people who love and trust Jesus eat and drink together to remember His death on the cross, how Jesus' body was broken like bread and His blood was poured out like wine for sin

CRUCIFY – to die on a cross

DESERT – a really hot, dry place with almost no food or water

DISCIPLE – a friend and follower of Jesus

GOD – God the Father is God. Jesus the Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. There is only one God who is three different persons. **God Made Everything. God Is in Charge of Everything. God Is Good!**

GOSPEL – the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** and the whole world from sin

HEAVEN – the place where God lives

IDOL – anything we love and trust more than God

ISRAELITES – God's special, chosen people

MIRACLE – something amazing and special that shows God's power

PROMISED LAND – the place God promised to give to the Israelites that was full of good things

PROPHET – someone who speaks for God

SACRIFICE – giving something special and valuable to God to show Him that He is better

SAVES – rescues

SIN (SICK HEART) – anything we do or think that is different from what God wants. Sin starts in our hearts and comes out in our actions. Everyone sins. Sin separates us from God, and we die.

TAX COLLECTOR – someone who collects money and gives it to the people in charge of a city as a job

TEMPLE – the place where God's people worshiped God together a long time ago

TEMPTATION – when our hearts or other people tell us that sinning is better than obeying God

WORSHIP – how we show that God is most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We use our voices, minds and bodies to worship God.



Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Psalm 103:1

BLESS – God showing and giving His goodness HOLY – completely perfect

About the Art: He is worthy! We can praise God with our whole self, with the enthusiasm of a gorilla.

ABOUT EPIPHANY

Epiphany means "to show" or "make known" and is a time when we celebrate that Jesus is the Son of God and the Savior God promised to His people. During Epiphany, we also celebrate that Jesus came to live with His people.

During the season of Epiphany, we will learn stories about Jesus being with His people and living a perfect life.

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When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3

TRUST – believing God does what is best

About the Art: No matter how dark things look, we can always call on our trustworthy God.

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

WAGES – what you get for something you did ETERNAL – always



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About the Art: Jesus is the bridge; without Him, we would be doomed! Praise be to God that we do not get what we deserve and that He made a way for us instead!

ABOUT LENT

Lent is the time leading up to Jesus dying on the cross for our sin. It is 40 days long to remind us of when Jesus went into the wilderness and Satan tried to get Him to sin. Not once did Jesus sin. He is the only person who has lived a perfect life! This season reminds us that Jesus gave His life on the cross to save sinners!

During the last week of Lent, we celebrate Holy Week. This is a week when we celebrate the final days of Jesus' life. It starts with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. It includes the last meal Jesus had with His disciples and Jesus dying on the cross for our sin. It ends with His body being buried in a tomb.



Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

> STEADFAST – stays the same, doesn't change ENDURES – keeps on going

About the Art: All creation

submits to Him. Long after the Easter treats are gone, the people of God will glory in the sweetness of the love of Jesus.

ABOUT EASTER

Easter is a time we celebrate that Jesus is no longer dead; He is alive! He was buried in a tomb and on the third day, He rose from the grave. During Easter, we celebrate that Jesus came back to life, and for 40 days, He met with His people before going back to heaven to be with God the Father. Because Jesus is with God the Father in heaven, we can celebrate that all who love and trust in God will one day be with God, too.

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But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

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About the Art: The Spirit builds qualities in believers with care the way a beaver builds his dam. Because of His work, those who love and trust Jesus will not be overtaken by the flood of their sinful natures.



Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 4:10

> HUMBLE – knowing you are not the most important EXALT – lift up, make important

About the Art: Humility is not simply a lack of bragging about our greatness. It's knowing that any glorious

knowing that any glorious transformation is caused by the same Creator who makes caterpillars into butterflies.

ABOUT PENTECOST

During the season of Pentecost, we celebrate that God has given the Holy Spirit as a gift to those who love and trust Jesus. Jesus did not leave His people alone but sent a Helper, the Holy Spirit. We celebrate how God's children, led by the Helper, began to tell others about how Jesus came to save sinners. As more and more people heard about Jesus, the Church grew. The Church is a group of people who love and trust Jesus and spend time learning about, worshiping and telling others about Jesus. God's children are all over the world and are all a part of His Church. During Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Helper and the beginning of the Church.

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July

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. **Psalm 8:1**

MAJESTIC — big and important, like a king GLORY — God showing how areat He is

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About the Art: The majestic lion is known throughout the whole world as the king of the jungle. But even the lion can't compare to the majesty of God, the King of the universe!

ABOUT ORDINARY TIME

During the season of Ordinary Time, we celebrate what Jesus told His disciples to do—go around the whole world telling others about Him! This is a time we celebrate the work the Holy Spirit, the Helper, is doing in the Church to make disciples. We call this "Ordinary Time" because we tell others about Jesus in the places that we are—in our homes, neighborhoods, schools—until the whole world knows Him!



"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

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About the Art: We can be brave because we know God can protect us like a shell protects a turtle.



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

REFUGE – a safe place

About the Art: The Bible says that we can trust God to take care of us like a mother hen takes care of her little chicks. We are safe in the shadow of His wings!

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Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. Isaiah 41:10a

DISMAYED – worried

About the t: We are kept safe by our Factor just like baby penguins guarded by their fathers in a snowstorm.

W M Τ F S S T NOTES



"The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." **Job 1:21b**

> BLESSED – God showing and giving His goodness

About the Art: Even when

the storms of life come, we can trust that God is good and that He is in charge of everything.

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December

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

SIN – anything we do or think that is different from what God wants

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About the Art: Sheep grazed near Bethlehem the night baby Jesus was born. Sheep can remind us that Jesus was called the perfect Lamb because only He could take away the sins of all the world.

ABOUT ADVENT

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival." In this season, we remember that Jesus came down to be born as a little baby. When we celebrate Advent, we remind ourselves that all people have hearts sick with sin. Nobody can make their own heart healthy. But Jesus came to save sinners! We celebrate that Jesus came to make sick hearts healthy for all who love and trust Him.

