

LITTLE VILLAGE

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

NEW TESTAMENT

Ages 3–Kindergarten



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NEW TESTAMENT

Ages 3–Kindergarten

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LITTLE VILLAGE PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

The most joyful thing in all the world is knowing God; that's why our kids need to hear who God is and what He has done in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

In fact, God's big story (see the God's Big Story Timeline in the Appendix)—from creation to redemption to glory—displays Him as Hero. **The Bible is God's true Word. It is from God and about God.** Sadly, we sometimes miss that point and make everything about ourselves. Our kids need a different vantage point: God, in His wonder, shows us His love while we are yet still sinners.

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

Even though our hearts are by nature opposed to God in every way, Jesus died on the cross for us so that our sick hearts (see Sick Heart/Healthy Heart visuals in the Appendix) could be made healthy, and now everyone who loves and trusts Jesus will get to live with God forever!

A STRONG FOUNDATION

The lessons throughout this curriculum highlight one of these Six Foundational Truths: **God Made Everything, God Is Good, God Is in Charge of Everything, The Church Is God's Family, God Wants to Talk With Us, and Jesus Came to Save Sinners.** This helps us keep the focus of

every lesson on the main point of the story: God! And what do we do in response? Worship!

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

OUR PRAYER

We pray that God would show the next generation the reason for the hope that we have. May we faithfully tell God's big story, laying kindling in the hearts of children that the Lord might ignite for the praise of His beautiful Name.



FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

Lesson numbers are color coded in the table of contents to correspond with one of the six foundational truths below. For example, yellow lessons go with "God Is in Charge of Everything."



HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM

Each year, we teach chronologically through the Bible, starting in June. The lessons from the Old Testament volume conclude just before the season of Advent. Reiterating the story of the Fall in “Advent Begins: God Promises a Savior” serves to prepare the way for the long-expected Messiah, kicking off the work of Christ in the New Testament volume. Please note that this book includes more lessons than there are weeks in the year. We've included all of our available lessons to allow for choice. You should plan out which lessons to teach before beginning the curriculum year.

Lessons can be taught in a large group setting, with kids later dispersing into smaller classrooms or groups for review and activities such as crafts and coloring. While the review questions at the end of each lesson are meant for the smaller classroom setting, it may

be helpful for you to view them as goals for comprehension during the large group teaching. For take-home papers, see the accompanying activity book, which includes family discussion guides and coloring sheets.

LESSON KEY

This key will help you navigate the curriculum. Each lesson is tied to one of Six Foundational Truths. Supplies needed are located in the upper right corner of the lesson page. The ➡ symbol indicates where to begin teaching. *Blue italics* indicate actions to be performed during the teaching. The ✈ symbol represents “landing the plane.”

This section will reiterate the foundational truth of the lesson and provide a link to the gospel. The Bible 📖 indicates when the key text from the Bible is supposed to be read aloud. Be sure to teach value and honor of the Word of God by

reading from a physical copy of the Bible itself. The ✝ symbol shows you when to lead the kids in the Gospel Fingerplay rhyme in the Appendix. The **bold text** indicates key points and definitions that should be said word-for-word. For a complete list of terms and definitions, see the Glossary at the end of this book.



Genesis 3

Advent Begins: God Promises a Savior

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: wrapped gift box to store Advent visuals of unique-looking fruit, stuffed snake, Sick Heart and Healthy Heart posters, God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT She took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. **Genesis 3:6b**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Who can raise their hand and tell me what holiday we are going to celebrate soon?

That's right! It's almost Christmastime! It's one of my favorite times of the year. I love to spend time with family, give gifts to people I love, and look at Christmas lights. But the thing I love most about Christmas is getting to spend time remembering the birth of Jesus.

The whole reason we celebrate Christmas is to remember Jesus! **On the count of three, say, "Jesus!" 1—2—3! Jesus!** Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to learn about when Jesus was born. But before we do that, we need to go all the way back to the beginning of the Bible to see why Jesus needed to be born.

(Show the Bible.) The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

In the beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we learn that **God Made Everything**. *(Point to the "God made everything" circle on God's Big Story Timeline.)* And everything He made was perfect. There was no sin or sadness or sickness or death. God created Adam and Eve, and they had hearts that loved and trusted Jesus. *(Point to the Healthy Heart poster.)*

God placed Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden. Eden was perfect! It was beautiful and full of good things like animals and tasty food. But the best thing about the garden was that Adam and Eve got to be with God! They got to walk with God and talk with God and see God face-to-face. There is nothing better than getting to be with God!

God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed in the garden. He gave them every tree in the garden to eat from except one. God is so generous! God gave Adam and Eve one rule. He told Adam and Eve they could not eat the fruit from one tree. *(Hold up the fruit.)* God was protecting Adam and Eve by telling them not to eat the fruit from the one tree. God knew that if they ate the fruit, they would be separated *(hold arms far apart)* from God and die. God's rule would keep Adam and Eve safe and help them have the happiest lives possible.

One day, a beautiful snake came into the garden and spoke to Eve. *(Pick up the snake and pet the snake's head while you talk about it.)* The snake lied to Eve. The snake told Eve that if she ate the fruit from the one tree she would not die, but she would be like God. What a terrible lie!

📖 Sadly, Eve believed the snake instead of believing God. The Bible tells us Eve looked at the tree she was not supposed to eat from and—*(Read Genesis 3:6b from the Bible.)*

(Point to the "Adam and Eve sinned" circle on the God's Big Story Timeline.) Adam and Eve sinned when they disobeyed God and ate the fruit. **Sin is anything we do or think that is different from what God wants.**

As soon as Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit, everything in God's perfect world broke. Sin entered the world, and the world was no longer perfect. Now there was sickness and death and sadness and bad things. When Adam and Eve sinned, their hearts became sick with sin. *(Point to the Sick Heart poster.)*

Adam and Eve knew they had done something terrible. So they tried to hide from God. *(Crouch*

down and pretend to hide.) Can we hide from God? No! God knows everything and sees everything. God came looking for Adam and Eve in the garden.

God had told Adam and Eve what would happen if they ate the fruit—they would die. And they would be separated from God. There is nothing worse than being separated from God!

God punished Adam and Eve for disobeying Him. He sent them out of the garden of Eden. *(Point away from the group.)* But before God sent them out, He made them a promise. *(Point to the “God promised a Savior” circle on the God’s Big Story.)* It was a very important promise. God promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to rescue God’s people from sin. That Savior would fix everything that sin had broken. And that Savior would defeat the snake that had lied to Adam and Eve. Do you know who that Savior was? Jesus! **On the count of three, say, “Jesus!”**
1—2—3! Jesus!

(Show the God’s Big Story “God’s people wait” clock.) God did not send Jesus to rescue God’s people right away. God waited thousands and thousands of years to send the Savior. During that time, God’s people faced many hard things. While they waited for Jesus, God gave His people hints and clues about how Jesus would come, what He would do and what He would be like.

These hints and clues were written down in the Bible *(show the Bible)* and would help God’s people wait. Some days, God’s people waited for the Savior patiently. Some days they waited with tears and frustration. Some days, they wondered if God had forgotten His promise. But God continued to whisper His promise to send Jesus over and over again throughout the Bible. And one day, when no one was expecting it, Jesus came!

➔ **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** God kept His promise to send a Savior to save us from sin. When we love and trust Jesus, God takes the heart that is sick with sin out of us and gives us

a new heart that loves and trusts Him. So, from now until Christmas, we get to remember how God kept His promise to send Jesus. And we get to celebrate that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.”
1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners.
On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” with a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up!
On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

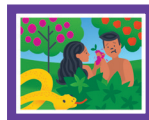
- ☐ This is where we are in God's Big Story. *(Point to each circle from the lesson: "God made everything," "Adam and Eve sinned" and "God promised a Savior.")*
- ☐ Where did Adam and Eve live? *(The garden, Eden)*
- ☐ What was God's one rule for the garden? *(God told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from one of the trees in the garden.)*
- ☐ Why did God make the rule? *(To protect Adam and Eve; all of God's rules are good.)*
- ☐ Did Adam and Eve obey God's rule? *(No!)*
- ☐ What happened? *(A snake lied to Eve and told her not to obey God, so Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree that God told them not to.)*
- ☐ Why did Adam and Eve hide from God after they broke His rule? *(They were scared and knew that they had done something wrong.)*
- ☐ What happened to Adam and Eve's hearts after they disobeyed? *(They became sick with sin.)*
- ☐ Could Adam and Eve fix their hearts? *(No!)*
- ☐ What did God do to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed? *(God told them to leave the garden.)*
- ☐ Who could fix Adam and Eve's hearts? *(God)*
- ☐ Who did God send to heal our sick, sinful hearts? *(Jesus)*
- ☐ Did God send Jesus right away to save sinners? *(No, He waited many, many years.)*
- ☐ Did God keep His promise to send Jesus? *(Yes! God always keeps His promises!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"*



The Garden
of Eden



Serpent Lying



Adam and
Eve Disobey



Sick World

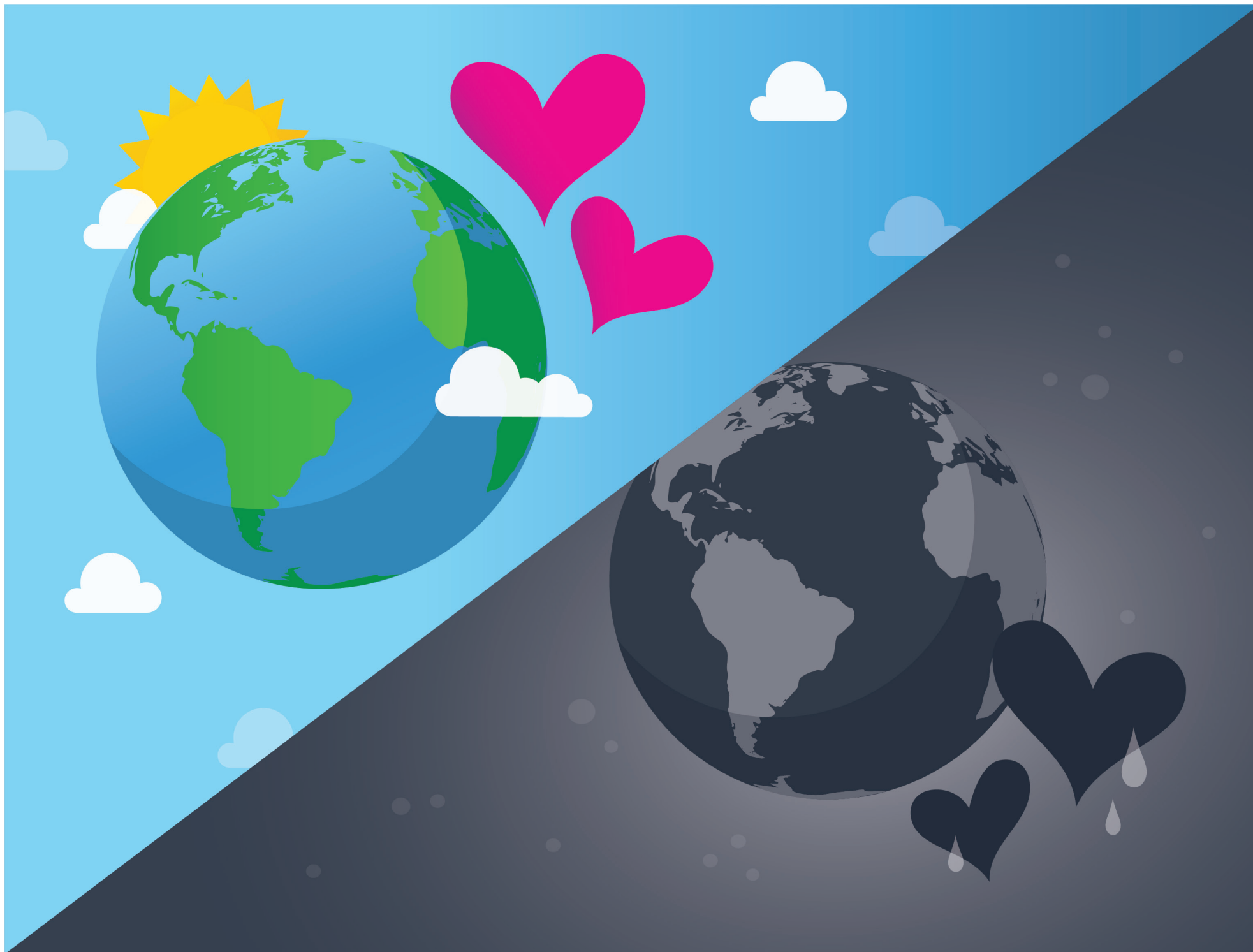


Jesus Came to
Save Sinners











JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 2:1–7

Jesus Is Born

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

KEY TEXT And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **Luke 2:7**

Room Setup: One wall of classroom will be covered in felt scene background—night sky, grassy hills on one side, stable on the opposite side with a manger in center of the stable. Everything in the background can be stapled to the wall except the roof of the stable. A star will be on top of the stable. The inside of the stable should also have a cow and one sheep (to the side so that Mary and Joseph can fit next to the manger).

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Show the Bible. The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

Last week, we learned about the very first story in the Bible. **God Made Everything!** And everything He made was good. God made Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve had hearts that loved and trusted God. Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden

called Eden where they got to walk with God and talk with God and see God face to face. There is nothing better than getting to be with God.

God gave Adam and Eve one rule in the garden. *(Show the fruit.)* They could not eat the fruit from one tree or they would be separated from God and die.

(Pick up the snake and pet it while you talk about the snake tempting Eve.) One day, a snake came into the garden and told Adam and Eve that they should eat the fruit God told them not to eat. The snake said the fruit would make them like God. The snake was a liar!

Adam and Eve listened to the snake instead of listening to God. They ate the fruit God had told them not to eat. Adam and Eve’s hearts became sick with sin. Because they sinned, they had to leave the garden and be separated from God. It was a terrible day! **Can you show me a sad face?**

Before Adam and Eve left the garden, God made a promise. He told Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to save God’s people from their sin. That Savior was Jesus! Jesus is God’s Son. **On the count of three, say, “Jesus!” 1–2–3! Jesus!**

Supplies: felt background (night sky, grassy hill, stable, cow, sheep, manger, star), unique-looking fruit, stuffed snake, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, donkey

God’s people had to wait many, many years for Jesus to come. And when Jesus came, it was a surprise! **Can you show me a surprised face?** There was a woman named Mary. *(Take the felt Mary out of the box and place her on the grassy hill.)* **Can you say, “Hello,” to Mary?**

There was also a man named Joseph. *(Take the felt Joseph out of the box and place him next to Mary.)* **Can you say, “Hello,” to Joseph?**

An angel came to Mary and Joseph and told them that they would have a baby. That baby would be the Savior whom God had promised. The angel told Joseph to name the baby Jesus.

The king told everyone in the land that they had to go to their hometown to be counted. Mary and Joseph had to travel to a town called Bethlehem. **On the count of three, say, “Bethlehem!” 1–2–3! Bethlehem!**

Bethlehem was far, far away, and Mary was very pregnant. Mary and Joseph could not drive in a car to Bethlehem *(pretend you are holding a steering wheel)* or fly in an airplane *(spread your arms like you are an airplane)* to get there. They had to walk or ride a donkey. *(Take the donkey out of the box and put it next to Mary and Joseph.)*

So Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. It took them several days. When they got to Bethlehem, they were very tired. **Can you show me a tired face?**

When they got to Bethlehem, there was nowhere for them to sleep! So they had to stay in a stable. **On the count of three, say, “Stable!” 1—2—3! Stable!**

A stable is like a barn. It is where sheep and cows and horses and pigs live. A stable is not clean at all. In fact, a stable is very stinky. *(Hold your nose when you say the word stinky.)*

(Move Mary and Joseph to the stable. Place Mary on one side of the manger and Joseph on the other side. Place the donkey in the stable, too.)

That night, Mary gave birth to baby Jesus. *(Take the felt baby Jesus out of the box and place him in the manger.)*

 *Read Luke 2:7 from the Bible.*

Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth. She did not have a crib or bed to put baby Jesus in. Instead, she had to put baby Jesus in a manger. A manger is what animals eat out of.

✈ On that special night, Jesus was born. Jesus is God’s Son. God’s Son left heaven, where He was in charge of everything, to be born a little baby in a dirty, stinky stable, to sleep in a dirty manger that animals eat out of. Jesus did all of this because He loves us. He would grow up and never sin. And then He would die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. When we love and trust Jesus, God takes the sick, sinful heart out of us and gives us a healthy heart. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” in a tiny mouse voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Did God keep His promise to Adam and Eve to send Jesus? *(Yes! God always keeps His promises!)*
- ☐ What did the angel tell Mary and Joseph? *(That they were going to have a baby, God’s Son, and to name the baby Jesus)*
- ☐ Where did Mary and Joseph have to travel to? *(Bethlehem)*
- ☐ Where did Mary and Joseph find a place to sleep? *(A stable)*
- ☐ What happened that night in the stable? *(Baby Jesus was born.)*
- ☐ Where did Mary put baby Jesus? *(A manger)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*



Adam and
Eve Disobey



The Angel
Tells Mary



Joseph and
Mary Travel



Jesus Is Born



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners











JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 2:8–20

Shepherds and Angels Worship Jesus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: felt background (night sky, grassy hill, star, stable), characters/animals (cow, donkey, manger, Mary, Joseph), unique-looking fruit, stuffed snake, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, angel

KEY TEXT And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” **Luke 2:10–11**

Room Setup: One wall of classroom will be covered in felt scene background—night sky, grassy hills on one side, stable on the opposite side with manger in center of stable. Everything in the background can be stapled to the wall except the roof of the stable. A star will be on top of the stable. The inside of the stable should also have a cow, a donkey, Mary and Joseph.

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

God gave Adam and Eve one rule in the garden. *Show the fruit.* They could not eat the fruit from one tree or they would be separated from God and die.

(Pick up the snake and pet it while you talk about the snake tempting Eve.) But one day, a snake came into the garden and told Adam and Eve that they should eat the fruit God told them not to eat. The snake said the fruit would make them like God. The snake was a liar!

Adam and Eve listened to the snake instead of listening to God. They ate the fruit, and their hearts became sick with sin. Because they sinned, they had to leave the garden and be separated from God. It was a terrible day!

Before Adam and Eve left the garden, God made a promise. He told Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to save God’s people from their sin. That Savior was Jesus! Jesus is God’s Son.

God’s people had to wait many, many years for Jesus to come. God kept His promise to send Jesus.

There was a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph. *(Point to the Mary and Joseph felt figures on the wall.)* An angel came to Mary and Joseph and told them that they would have a baby. That baby would be the Savior whom God had promised. That baby would be named Jesus.

The king told everyone in the land that they had to go to their hometown to be counted. Mary and Joseph had to travel to a town called Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, there was nowhere for them to sleep! So they had to stay in a stable.

That night, Mary gave birth to baby Jesus. *(Place the felt baby Jesus in the manger.)*


Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth. She did not have a crib or bed to put baby Jesus in. Instead, she had to put baby Jesus in a manger.

Nearby, there were some men in a field called shepherds. *(Take the shepherds out of the box and place them on the far left side of the grassy hill.)* **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Shepherds!” 1–2–3! Shepherds!**

Shepherds take care of sheep. *(Take the sheep out of the box and place them around the shepherds.)* **On the count of three, let’s all make the sound a sheep makes. 1–2–3! Baa!**

Shepherds live outside with their sheep. While baby Jesus was being born in the stable, the shepherds were in a field watching over their sheep. It was a very dark and quiet night.

Suddenly, an angel appeared in the night sky! The Bible tells us the angel was surrounded by a very bright light from heaven. *(Take the angel out of the box and place it in the sky above the shepherds.)* Angels are mighty messengers and warriors of God. The shepherds were afraid of the angel. **Can you show me what the shepherds might have looked like when they saw the angel in the sky?**

 The angel spoke to the shepherds and told them something wonderful! **Let's read the Bible to see what the angel said.** *(Read Luke 2:10–11 from the Bible.)* The angel told the shepherds not to be afraid, but to have joy. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Joy!" 1–2–3! Joy! Can you show me with your face what it looks like to have joy?**

The angel told the shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born! **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** And suddenly, instead of there being just one angel in the sky, the sky was FILLED *(open your arms wide)* with angels! Lots and lots of angels! And the angels began praising God and singing about how great God is. They

said "Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God!" **On the count of three, let's all say, "Glory to God!" 1–2–3! Glory to God!**

And then, just as quickly as the angels appeared, they disappeared!

The shepherds quickly left their sheep and ran to Bethlehem and to the stable. They found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. *(Move the shepherds to the stable.)*

When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they praised Him—which means they told Jesus how great He was.

Then, the shepherds went all over Bethlehem telling everyone that Jesus had been born! *(Move throughout the room saying "Jesus is born! Jesus Came to Save Sinners!")*

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," with a big,

deep voice. 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1–2–3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✈ On the night that Jesus was born, God wanted everyone to know that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** God sent mighty angels to tell the shepherds. And the shepherds were so excited they left their sheep to go see baby Jesus and tell everyone else the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** We can tell others that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** just like the angels and the shepherds did. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" 1–2–3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Did God keep His promise to Adam and Eve to send Jesus? *(Yes! God always keeps His promises!)*
- ☐ What did the shepherds see in the sky the night Jesus was born? *(An angel)*
- ☐ What did the shepherds feel when they saw the angel? *(They were afraid.)*
- ☐ What did the angel tell the shepherds? *(Jesus had been born)*
- ☐ After the angel told the shepherds that Jesus had been born, what filled the sky? *(Lots of angels praising God)*
- ☐ When the angels disappeared, what did the shepherds do? *(They ran to see Jesus.)*
- ☐ After the shepherds saw Jesus, what did they do? *(They told everyone that Jesus had been born!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"*



Adam and
Eve Disobey



The Angel
Tells Mary



Joseph and
Mary Travel



Jesus Is Born



The Angel Tells
the Shepherds



Host of Angels
Praising God



Shepherds
Worship Jesus



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners











JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Matthew 2:1–12

Wise Men Worship Jesus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

KEY TEXT When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. **Matthew 2:10–11**

Room Setup: One wall of classroom will be covered in felt scene background—night sky, grassy hills on one side, stable on the opposite side with manger in center of stable. The second wall will have a night sky and sand dunes with a camel. Everything in the background can be stapled to the wall except the roof of the stable and the manger. A star will be on top of the stable. The inside of the stable should also have Mary and Joseph.

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Bible tells us that **God Made Everything** and everything God made was good. God made Adam and Eve with hearts that loved and

trusted God. Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden where they got to walk with God and talk with God and see God face to face. There is nothing better than getting to be with God. God gave Adam and Eve one rule in the garden. *(Show the fruit.)* They could not eat the fruit from one tree or they would be separated from God and die.

(Pick up the snake and pet it while you talk about the snake tempting Eve.) But one day, a snake came into the garden and told Adam and Eve that they should eat the fruit God told them not to eat. The snake said the fruit would make them like God. The snake was a liar!

Adam and Eve listened to the snake instead of listening to God. They ate the fruit, and their hearts became sick with sin. Because they sinned, they had to leave the garden and be separated from God. Before Adam and Eve left the garden, God made a promise. He told Adam and Eve that one day, He would send a Savior to save God's people from their sin. That Savior was Jesus! Jesus is God's Son. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Jesus!" 1—2—3! Jesus!**

God's people had to wait many, many years for Jesus to come. God kept His promise to send Jesus.

Supplies: felt background (night sky, grassy hill, star, stable on one wall, night sky, sand dunes, camel on the second wall), characters/animals (manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, sheep, angel), unique-looking fruit, stuffed snake, baby Jesus, toddler Jesus, wise men, windows

There was a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph. *(Point to Mary and Joseph in the stable.)* An angel came to Mary and Joseph and told them that they would have a baby. That baby would be the Savior whom God had promised. That baby would be named Jesus.

One night, in the town of Bethlehem, baby Jesus was born. *(Put baby Jesus in the manger.)* Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth and put baby Jesus in a manger.

Nearby, there were some men in a field called shepherds. *(Point to the shepherds in the field.)* Shepherds took care of sheep. *(Point to the sheep.)* **On the count of three, let's all make the sound a sheep makes. 1—2—3! Baa!** The shepherds were in a field watching over their sheep. It was a very dark and quiet night.

Suddenly, an angel appeared in the night sky! *(Point to the angel.)*

The angel spoke to the shepherds and told them something wonderful! The angel told them Jesus had been born! **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

And then, just as quickly as the angel appeared, it disappeared! *(Remove the angel.)*

The shepherds quickly left their sheep and ran to Bethlehem and to the stable. They found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. *(Move the shepherds to the stable with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.)*

When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they praised Him—which means they told Jesus how great He was.

Then, the shepherds went all over Bethlehem telling everyone that Jesus had been born! They were so excited and wanted everyone to know that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**


On the night Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. *(Point to the star.)* Men in another country far, far away from Bethlehem saw the star in the sky. These men were called wise men. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Wise Men!" 1—2—3! Wise men!** *(Place the Wise Men on the second wall near the camel.)*

The wise men were very smart men who knew that the star was a sign that the Savior God had promised all the way in the beginning of the Bible had come. When the wise men saw the star, they quickly left their homes and began

traveling to see the Savior, Jesus. They followed the star to find Jesus.

But it would take the wise men a very long time to get to baby Jesus. It may have taken two years for the wise men to travel to Bethlehem. During that time, Jesus began to grow up. *(Remove the shepherds and sheep. Remove the manger and baby Jesus. Add toddler Jesus.)*

And Jesus didn't live in the stable. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived in a house. *(Remove the roof of the stable. Add the windows.)*

 When the wise men got to Bethlehem *(move the wise men pieces close to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus)*, they found the house Jesus was in and came to worship Him. *(Read Matthew 2:10–11 from the Bible.)* They wanted to tell Jesus how great He was and give him gifts. The wise men gave Jesus very special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

✈ **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** God kept His promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior! Jesus came as a baby but grew up to be a man who never sinned. He died on the cross

to take the punishment for our sins. But He did not stay dead! He rose from the dead! And before He went back to heaven to be with God, Jesus promised that He would come back one day. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** And He will come again! At Christmas, we do not just celebrate Jesus' birth. We also celebrate that He died on the cross and rose from the dead. And one day, He will return. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," with a very slow voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Did God keep His promise to Adam and Eve to send Jesus? *(Yes! God always keeps His promises!)*
- ☐ What did God put in the sky the night Jesus was born? *(A star)*
- ☐ Who saw the star and knew it meant that Jesus had been born? *(The wise men)*
- ☐ Where were the wise men when they saw the star? *(In a faraway country)*
- ☐ Did the wise men come to see Jesus the night He was born? *(No, it took many months for the wise men to travel to see Jesus.)*
- ☐ What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus? *(They worshiped Him and gave Him special gifts.)*
- ☐ Does God want everyone all over the world to know that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners?** *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Who can tell others that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners?** *(We can!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together:
"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"



Adam and
Eve Disobey



Jesus is Born



The Angel Tells
the Shepherds



Shepherds
Worship Jesus



Wise Men
Worship Jesus



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners







JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 2:1–20; Matthew 2:1–12

Christmas Review

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: snake, apple, nativity set

KEY TEXT And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. **Luke 2:7**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Bible tells us that **God Made Everything** and everything God made was good. God made Adam and Eve with hearts that loved and trusted God. Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden where they got to walk with God and talk with God and see God face-to-face. There is nothing better than getting to be with God.

God gave Adam and Eve one rule in the garden. *(Show the apple.)* They could not eat the fruit from one tree or they would be separated from God and die.

(Pick up the snake and pet it while you talk about the snake tempting Eve.) But one day, a

snake came into the garden and told Adam and Eve that they should eat the fruit God told them not to eat. The snake said the fruit would make them like God. The snake was a liar!

Adam and Eve listened to the snake instead of listening to God. They ate the fruit, and their hearts became sick with sin. Because they sinned, they had to leave the garden and be separated from God. It was a terrible day!

Can you show me a sad face?

Before Adam and Eve left the garden, God made a promise. He told Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to save God's people from their sin. That Savior was Jesus! Jesus is God's Son. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Jesus!" 1–2–3! Jesus!**

God's people had to wait many, many years for Jesus to come. God kept His promise to send Jesus.

There was a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph. *(Point to the Mary and Joseph nativity set pieces.)* An angel came to Mary and Joseph and told them that they would have a baby. That baby would be the Savior whom God had promised. That baby would be named Jesus.

📖 One night, in the town of Bethlehem, baby

Jesus was born. *(Point to the baby Jesus in the manger piece. Read Luke 2:7 from the Bible.)*

Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth and put baby Jesus in a manger.

Nearby, there were some men in a field called shepherds. *(Point to the shepherds.)*

Shepherds take care of sheep. *(Point to the sheep.)* **On the count of three, let's all make the sound a sheep makes. 1–2–3! Baa!**

The shepherds were in a field watching over their sheep. It was a very dark and quiet night. Suddenly, an angel appeared in the night sky! *(Point to the angel.)*

The angel spoke to the shepherds and told them something wonderful! The angel told them Jesus had been born! **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

And then, just as quickly as the angel appeared, it disappeared! *(Remove the angel.)*

The shepherds quickly left their sheep and ran to Bethlehem and to the stable. They found Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. *(Move the shepherds to be near Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.)* When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they praised

Him—which means they told Jesus how great He was.

Then, the shepherds went all over Bethlehem telling everyone that Jesus had been born! They were so excited and wanted everyone to know that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the night Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky. *(Point to the sky.)* Men in another country far, far away from Bethlehem saw the star in the sky. These men were called wise men. **On the count of three, let's all say, "wise men!" 1—2—3! Wise men!** *(Point to the wise men. Keep the wise men separate from the other characters to show that they were far away.)*

The wise men were very smart men who knew that the star was a sign that the Savior whom God had promised all the way in the beginning of the Bible had come. When the wise men saw the star, they quickly left their homes and began traveling to see the Savior, Jesus. They followed the star to find Jesus.

But it would take the wise men a very long time to get to baby Jesus. It may have taken two years for the wise men to travel to Bethlehem. During that time, Jesus began to grow up. *(Remove the shepherds and sheep.)*

And Jesus didn't live in the stable. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived in a house.

When the wise men got to Bethlehem *(move the wise men pieces close to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus)*, they found the house Jesus was in and came to worship Him. They wanted to tell Jesus how great He was and give Him gifts. The wise men gave Jesus very special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

✈ **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** God kept His promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior! Jesus came as a baby but grew up to be a man who never sinned. He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. But He did not stay dead! He rose from dead! And before He went back to heaven to be with God, Jesus promised that He would come back one day. **Jesus Came**

to Save Sinners! And He will come again! At Christmas, we do not just celebrate Jesus' birth. We also celebrate that He died on the cross and rose from the dead. And one day, He will return. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

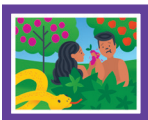
On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," with a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Did God keep His promise to Adam and Eve to send Jesus? *(Yes! God always keeps His promises!)*
- ☐ What did God put in the sky the night Jesus was born? *(A star)*
- ☐ Who saw the star and knew it meant that Jesus had been born? *(The wise men)*
- ☐ Where were the wise men when they saw the star? *(In a far away country)*
- ☐ Did the wise men come to see Jesus the night He was born? *(No, it took a long time for the wise men to travel to see Jesus.)*
- ☐ When the wise men saw Jesus, what did they do? *(They worshiped Him and gave Him special gifts.)*
- ☐ Does God want everyone all over the world to know that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Who can tell others that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**? *(We can!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"*



Adam and
Eve Disobey



Jesus is Born



The Angel Tells
the Shepherds



Shepherds
Worship Jesus



Wise Men
Worship Jesus



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners







JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 2:41–52

Jesus in the Temple

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

Supplies: pictures of Jesus listening and His parents looking

KEY TEXT After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. **Luke 2:46–47**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

For the last several weeks, we have been learning about and celebrating the birth of Jesus. Jesus is God's Son.

The Bible has lots of stories about Jesus as a baby and lots of stories about Jesus as a grownup, but there is only one story *(hold up one finger)* about Jesus as a kid, like you! But Jesus wasn't like everyone else. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is God. When Jesus was born, He became fully God and fully human. He ate food. He went to sleep at night. He learned how to read. He had parents who raised Him. But Jesus never sinned. He always did the right thing. He always loved

and obeyed God perfectly. No other human was without sin, only Jesus.

Every year in the town where Jesus grew up, all the people who believed in God would go to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate and worship God in the temple. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Temple." 1–2–3! Temple.** The temple was the place where God's people worshiped God together. One year, when Jesus was 12 years old, He went with His parents to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate and worship God. **Let's count to 12 together. (Count to 12.)**

When it was time to leave the temple and go home, Mary and Joseph didn't see Jesus so they thought that He was with some of their friends or family members. Soon they realized no one knew where Jesus was! Where was Jesus?! *(Look around the room like you are searching for someone. Show the picture of Mary and Joseph looking for Jesus.)* Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem and looked and looked for Jesus. After three days, they finally found Him.

📖 *(Read Luke 2:46–47 from the Bible.)*

Jesus was still in the temple talking about God

with the grownups! *(Show the picture of Jesus with the grownups.)* Even the smartest teachers listened to Him and asked Him questions about God. Everyone was surprised by how well Jesus knew God! **Can you show me a surprised face?** It was clear that this boy, Jesus, was different than other kids, even the adults!

While Jesus was in the temple, Mary, His mother, was worried about Him and wondered why it was He had stayed behind. *(Show the picture of Jesus with Mary and Joseph.)* Jesus asked her, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?" And when Jesus said "my Father," He meant God the Father! Jesus' Father was God. Jesus is God the Son!

✈️ Jesus has a special relationship with God because He is God the Son. Jesus loved to talk with God. Jesus took time to talk about God with others and talk to God through prayer His whole life—when He was a boy and when He was a grownup. We can talk with God, too! God has given us the Bible to talk to us. And we can talk to God through prayer. **God Wants to Talk With Us!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "God Wants to Talk With Us."

1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us.

On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Wants to Talk With Us,” with praying hands. 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Wants to Talk With Us!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Wants to Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for wanting to talk with us!

Review Questions

- ☐ How old was Jesus in this story? *(12 years old)*
- ☐ Where did Mary, Joseph, and Jesus go to celebrate and worship God? *(The temple)*
- ☐ When Mary and Joseph finally found Jesus, where was He? *(In the temple)*
- ☐ What was Jesus doing? *(Talking with grownups and teachers about God)*
- ☐ Who is Jesus’ Father? *(God)*
- ☐ Can we talk to God? *(Yes, we can talk to God through prayer.)*
- ☐ How does God talk to us? *(Through the Bible)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together:
“God Wants to Talk With Us!”



Mary and
Joseph Look
for Jesus



Jesus Listening
to the Teachers



Mary and
Joseph Find
Jesus

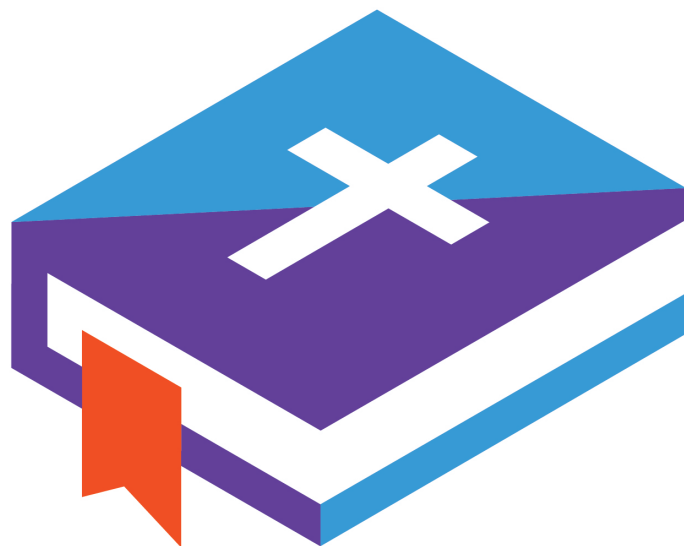


God Wants to
Talk With Us









GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



Matthew 3:13–17

Jesus Is Baptized

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: bowl of water, action figure

KEY TEXT And behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” **Matthew 3:17**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Jesus left heaven to be born a baby. But He did not stay a baby. He grew up! Last week, we learned about Jesus staying in the temple as a little boy to talk about God. After that, Jesus continued to grow up and became a man. The whole time Jesus was on earth, He never sinned. Did Jesus ever sin? **On the count of three, let’s all say, “No!” 1–2–3! No!**

There was a man named John the Baptist. John loved God very much. John was telling people about God at a place called the Jordan River. Lots of people came to see and hear John. John knew that everyone had hearts sick with sin. John wanted people to tell the truth about their sin. He wanted them

to know that they needed a Rescuer to save them from their sin. **Who is that Rescuer? Jesus!** John knew that the Rescuer was coming soon.

One day, Jesus went down to the Jordan River to see John. Jesus asked John to baptize Him. **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Baptize!” 1–2–3! Baptize!**

John and Jesus stood in the Jordan River. *(Get the plastic bowl of water and hold the action figure in the water, standing up.)* John dipped Jesus under the water and then brought Him back up. *(Dip the action figure under the water and bring it back up to a standing position.)* As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, something amazing happened! The heavens opened up, and the Spirit of God came down from heaven in the shape of a dove.

📖 *Read Matthew 3:17 from the Bible.*

Everyone who was there heard *(point to your ear)* the voice of God telling them that Jesus was God’s Son. It was a very special moment.

➔ When God spoke from heaven after Jesus was baptized, the people began to understand that the Rescuer whom God had promised was here. That

Rescuer was Jesus. Jesus had come to rescue His people from sin. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” with a big, deep voice. 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who baptized Jesus? *(John the Baptist)*
- ☐ What did it look like when Jesus was baptized?
(He was dipped all the way under the water and then brought back up.)
- ☐ After Jesus was baptized, whose voice did everyone hear from heaven? *(God's voice)*
- ☐ What did God say? *(Jesus was God's Son, and God was pleased with Him.)*
- ☐ Did Jesus ever sin? *(No! Jesus lived a perfect life.)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together:
"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"



Jesus Is
Baptized



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners





JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 4:1–13

Jesus Is Tempted

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: stone, Bible

KEY TEXT And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” **Luke 4:8**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

Last week, we learned about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. After Jesus was baptized, He went into the desert where He did not eat anything for 40 days while He spent time with God. That’s a long time! Jesus was very hungry. **Can you hold your stomach like you are starving?**

Jesus is God. Jesus never, ever sinned. He perfectly obeyed God the Father. Satan is God’s enemy. Satan came to Jesus in the desert and tried to get Jesus to sin. But Jesus cannot sin because Jesus is God.

Satan knew Jesus was hungry. Satan told Jesus to prove He was God by turning a stone **(hold up the stone)** into bread. Jesus had the

power to turn the stone into bread. But Jesus knew that was not what God wanted. Instead of sinning, Jesus remembered what He had read in the Bible **(hold up the Bible)** and obeyed God. **Jesus used the Bible to help Him fight sin!**

Satan tried a second time to get Jesus to sin. Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. **(Open your arms wide).** Satan promised to give Jesus all the kingdoms if Jesus would bow down and worship Satan. Jesus knew that only God deserves to be worshiped. Instead of sinning and worshiping Satan, Jesus remembered what the Bible said.

📖 **Read Luke 4:8 from the Bible.**

Jesus used the Bible to help Him fight sin!

Satan tried to get Jesus to sin a third time. Satan took Jesus to the very top of the temple and told Jesus to jump off of the building. **(Pretend like you are fixing to jump.)** Satan told Jesus that the Bible said angels would come and protect Jesus from getting hurt. But Jesus knew it would be sinful to jump off the building. Jesus told Satan that the Bible also said you should not test God. **(Hold up the Bible.) Jesus used the Bible to help Him fight sin!**

After that, Satan went away from Jesus. God sent angels to take care of Jesus.

Three different times **(hold up three fingers)**, Satan tried to get Jesus to sin. And each time, Jesus obeyed God perfectly instead of Satan and used the Bible to help Him fight sin **(hold up the Bible)**. Jesus never, ever, ever sinned. **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Jesus never sinned!” 1–2–3! Jesus never sinned!** Jesus obeyed God perfectly. And He used the Bible to help Him.

➔ We can use the Bible to help us fight sin! **God Is Good** to give us the Bible. By knowing what is in the Bible, we can know how to obey God. When we want to sin, we can remember what the Bible says and use the Bible to help us fight sin. Jesus used the Bible to help Him fight sin. We can use the Bible to help us fight sin. **God Is Good!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is Good.” 1–2–3. God Is Good. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is Good,” with a big, deep voice. 1–2–3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1–2–3. God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ Where did Jesus go after He was baptized?
(Into the desert)
- ☐ How long did Jesus stay in the desert without eating anything? *(40 days)*
- ☐ After those 40 days, who came to Jesus in the wilderness? *(Satan)*
- ☐ What was Satan trying to do? *(Get Jesus to sin and disobey God)*
- ☐ Jesus was very hungry after the 40 days. What did Satan try to get Jesus to do with a stone?
(Turn it into bread to eat)
- ☐ Did Jesus listen to Satan and turn the stone into bread? *(No!)*
- ☐ Satan told Jesus he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship Satan. Did Jesus worship Satan? *(No!)*
- ☐ Satan tried to get Jesus to jump off what? *(The top of the temple)*
- ☐ Did Jesus obey Satan and jump? *(No!)*
- ☐ What did Jesus use to fight against Satan? *(The Bible)*
- ☐ Who gave us the Bible? *(God)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together:
"God Is Good!"



Jesus Is
Tempted in the
Wilderness



God Is Good





GOD IS
GOOD



Matthew 4:18–22, 9:9–13

Jesus Chooses the Twelve Disciples

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: plastic fish, fishing net, gold coins, pictures

KEY TEXT Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **Matthew 4:20**

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. **Matthew 9:9**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

From now until Easter, we are going to talk about many of the amazing and wonderful things Jesus did when He was a grownup here on earth.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Raise your hand quietly if you have friends. Maybe you have friends at school or here at church or in your neighborhood. When Jesus was on earth, He had some friends whom He loved very much. They were called His disciples. **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Disciples!” 1–2–3! Disciples!**

While Jesus was on earth, He spent lots and lots of time teaching people all about God. There were lots of people who wanted to see Jesus and spend time listening to and learning from Him.

Jesus chose 12 men to be His very special **friends and followers. Let’s count to 12 together.** *(Count to 12.)* These men spent lots of time with Jesus, helping Jesus, learning from Jesus, and telling people about Jesus. Jesus chose these 12 men to be His **friends and followers.** Jesus loved these 12 disciples very much.

Jesus’ disciples were not important or rich or powerful men. In fact, a lot of these men had jobs that were not considered very important at all.

Some of Jesus’ **friends and followers** were fishermen. *(Show the plastic fish and net.)* This means that they spent all day and sometimes all night in a boat working and working to catch fish that they could sell to make money.

One day, Jesus was walking beside a big lake. He saw two brothers fishing. **Can you pretend to be fishing?** Jesus said to them, “Follow Me.” **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Follow Jesus!” 1–2–3! Follow Jesus!**

📖 *Read Matthew 4:20 from the Bible.* The fishermen left their boats and jobs and even their families to be Jesus’ **friends and followers.**

📖 One of Jesus’ disciples was a tax collector. His name was Matthew, and his job was to get money from people. One day, when Matthew was at work, Jesus told Matthew to come be His **friend and follower.** *Read Matthew 9:9 from the Bible.* **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Follow Jesus!” 1–2–3! Follow Jesus!** Matthew left everything to be Jesus’ disciple.

Jesus’ disciples were not perfect. They had sick, sinful hearts like you and me *(point to the children and yourself)*. But Jesus gave the disciples new, healthy hearts that loved and trusted Him. The disciples sometimes had a really hard time believing that Jesus is God and that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.** But Jesus taught them over and over all about God and that Jesus came to earth to die on the cross to save sinners.

✈️ Jesus loved the Twelve Disciples. He came to save them from their sin. Jesus came to save us from sin, too! Jesus wants us to be His **friends and followers**, too. He wants us to love and trust Him most—more than our families, our friends, our toys—more

than anything. We love and trust Jesus most when God gives us a healthy heart. Then, we become God's disciples—His **friends and followers**. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** and make those who love and trust Him His disciples. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” in a tiny mouse voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Jesus had a group of very special friends and followers. What were they called? *(Disciples)*
- ☐ How many disciples did Jesus have? *(12)*
- ☐ Were the disciples rich and important men? *(No!)*
- ☐ What kinds of jobs did the disciples have? *(Fishermen, tax collector)*
- ☐ What did Jesus say to the men when He asked them to be His friends and followers? *(“Follow Me.”)*
- ☐ What did the disciples leave to follow Jesus? *(Jobs, family, friends)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*



Jesus Calls
Fishermen



Jesus Calls
Matthew, the
Tax Collector



Jesus Teaches
His Friends
and Followers



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–14

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: five loaves of bread, two fish, basket, picture of Jesus teaching, picture of people eating

KEY TEXT And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. And they all ate and were satisfied. **Mark 6:41–42**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about Jesus' life when He was here on earth. When Jesus grew up, He began traveling around Israel with His disciples, teaching people about God. He wanted everyone to know that **God Is Good**. He wanted people to love and trust God most. Many people wanted to listen to everything that Jesus said.

Many times before Jesus would teach people about God, Jesus would do a miracle to show people that He was God. **On the count of three, let's all say, "Miracle!" 1–2–3! Miracle! A miracle is something amazing**

and special that shows God's power. Today, we are going to learn about a miracle that Jesus did when He took a tiny bit of food and fed lots and lots of people until all of them were full.

One day, Jesus heard some sad news about His friend and wanted to be alone to talk with God. Soon though, lots of people found Jesus and gathered around to hear Him teach. *(Show the picture of Jesus teaching the big crowd of people.)* More than 5,000 people came to hear Jesus teach about God! That's a lot of people! Jesus saw the crowds of people and cared about them, so He began to teach them that **God Is Good**.

When night came, all of the people were really hungry, and there was a big problem. No one had enough food to feed 5,000 people! **Everyone, rub your tummy like you are really hungry.** The disciples, Jesus' very good friends and followers, told Jesus to send all the people back to their homes to eat. But Jesus told His disciples something amazing. Jesus told the disciples that they were going to feed all 5,000 people.

The only food that the disciples could find were five loaves of bread and two fish *(count the five loaves and two fish out loud together)*. The

disciples did not think that was going to be enough food for the thousands of people!

📖 The disciples brought the bread and fish to Jesus. *(Read Mark 6:41–42 from the Bible. Show the picture of Jesus blessing the food.)* Jesus fed all of those people with the five *(hold up five fingers)* loaves of bread and two *(hold up two fingers)* fish until they were full. **Jesus did something amazing to show God's power. What is that called again? That's right, a miracle!** Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only a little food was a miracle.

When the disciples were passing out the food to the people, they never ran out. There was so much food that everyone got to eat until they were full! Jesus fed 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. When the disciples were picking up the food that was left over, the disciples picked up 12 whole baskets full of food. *(Show the picture of the people eating and the baskets of extra food.)* God is so good! Jesus showed everybody that **God Is Good** and that God takes care of His people.

Jesus feeding 5,000 people with only a little food was a miracle. Jesus did this miracle to show everybody that He is God. Jesus took care of the people by feeding them when they were

hungry. Jesus knew that even more than food, the people needed to know that **God Is Good**.

➔ God knows that you and I also need help. Our hearts are sick with sin, and we cannot make them healthy. God sent Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. When we love and trust Jesus, God gives us healthy hearts. **God Is Good**.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is Good.” 1—2—3. God Is Good. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is Good,” while we rub our tummies. 1—2—3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ How many people wanted to hear and see Jesus? (*More than 5,000*)
- ☐ Who are the disciples? (*Jesus’ very good friends and followers*)
- ☐ Jesus taught the people all day long. At the end of the day, why were the disciples worried? (*There was not enough food to feed the hungry people.*)
- ☐ How much food did Jesus use to feed all of those people? (*Five loaves of bread and two fish*)
- ☐ Was there enough food for all of the people? (*Yes!*)
- ☐ Was there any food left over? (*Yes, 12 baskets full!*)
- ☐ Jesus did a great miracle with the five loaves of bread and two fish. What is a miracle? (*Something amazing and special that shows God’s power*)
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: **“God Is Good!”**



Jesus Teaches
the Crowd



Jesus Blesses
the Food



All Are
Satisfied



God Is Good









**GOD IS
GOOD**



Mark 6:45–52

Jesus Walks on Water

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

Supplies: a cardboard box boat,
picture of Jesus walking on water

KEY TEXT But immediately [Jesus] spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” **Mark 6:50b**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Last week, we learned about Jesus and how Jesus fed LOTS of people with only a little bit of bread and a little bit of fish. Jesus did a miracle! **What is a miracle again? A miracle is something amazing that shows God’s power.** Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on earth to show that He is God and that **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

Today, we are going to learn about another miracle that Jesus did when He walked on water. When **His friends and followers**, the disciples, saw it, they were afraid!

Have you ever felt scared or afraid? What made you feel afraid? *(Call on a few children to share.)* I have been afraid, too. *(Tell about a*

time you felt afraid and why.) One of the ways we can become afraid is when we forget that **God Is in Charge of Everything.**

That’s exactly what happened to Peter. **On the count of 3, let’s say, “Peter.” 1–2–3! Peter!**

Peter was one of Jesus’ disciples. He loved Jesus very much and spent lots of time with Jesus as He taught people about God. One day when Jesus was finished teaching, He told Peter and the other disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the sea to wait for Him while Jesus went up to a mountain alone to pray.

It was very late and very dark while the disciples were sailing. There was a strong wind and strong waves that made it hard to sail. Then, the disciples saw something. *(Hold your hand up to your forehead to look.)* At first, they didn’t know what it was. Then they saw someone walking toward them ON TOP of the water and they were afraid. Did they need to be afraid though? No! **God Is in Charge of Everything.** He can do anything and He is good. He loves His people.

📖 Who do you think they saw walking on top of the water? It was Jesus! That’s right. *(Show the picture of Jesus walking on water.)* It was a miracle! Jesus was walking on top of the water

because Jesus is God and **God Is in Charge of Everything**, including water. Let’s read what Jesus told the disciples next from the Bible. *(Read Mark 6:50b from the Bible.)* “Don’t be afraid! It’s me,” Jesus said, but Peter was still a little scared. *(Read, using a scared voice)* “If it is you, tell me to walk out on the water to you!” Peter said. “Come,” Jesus said, so Peter stepped out of the boat, put his foot on top of the water, and, sure enough, he started walking to Jesus on TOP of the water. Jesus made the water hold Peter up, too!

But as Peter was walking to Jesus, he looked down. He saw the big waves and he felt the strong wind and became afraid. Then, Peter started sinking down into the waves! “Lord, save me!” Peter cried, and Jesus reached out His hand *(reach out your hand)* and grabbed him. “Oh, you of little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt?”

Then, Jesus and Peter both got into the boat and the wind stopped *(pause)*, and all of the disciples worshiped Jesus, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God!”

➔ Jesus did a miracle by walking on water to show His disciples that He is God. Jesus reminded them not to be afraid even when things feel scary because **God Is in Charge of Everything**—the

wind, the water, even our hearts—and **God Is Good!** When we are afraid, we can pray and ask Jesus to help us trust Him. When we sin, we can pray and ask Jesus to save us and forgive us. You see, we are all born with sick, sinful hearts. Sin separates us from our perfect God forever, but Jesus lived the perfect life. He never sinned. Then, Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and came back to life three days later, so that anyone who loves and trusts Him can have a new, healthy heart that loves God and can be with God forever! **God Is in Charge of Everything**—even our hearts. Isn't that good news?

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is in Charge of Everything.” 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is in Charge of Everything,” in a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is in Charge of Everything.”

If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything!

Review Questions

- ☐ Who were the disciples? *(Jesus' very good friends and followers)*
- ☐ What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? *(Sail across the sea while He went away to pray)*
- ☐ What did the disciples see? *(Someone walking toward them on the water)*
- ☐ How did that make the disciples feel? *(They were afraid.)*
- ☐ Who was walking on the water? *(Jesus)*
- ☐ What is that called when God does something amazing to show His power? *(A miracle)*
- ☐ What did Jesus tell Peter to do? *(Walk to Him on the water)* Did he? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ What happened when Peter got scared and forgot that **God Is in Charge of Everything**? *(He started sinking.)*
- ☐ What did Jesus do when Peter asked Jesus to save him? *(Jesus saved him.)*
- ☐ **God Is in Charge of Everything!** He can save us from fear and our sick hearts, too! So let's say our foundational truth together: *“God Is in Charge of Everything!”*



Jesus Walks
On the Water



God Is in Charge
of Everything





**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**



Mark 2:1–12

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: towel, picture

KEY TEXT And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!” **Mark 2:12**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Last week, we learned about Jesus doing a miracle to show people that Jesus is God. **A miracle is something amazing and special that shows God’s power. On the count of three, let’s all say, “Miracle!” 1–2–3! Miracle!** Jesus fed a very big group of hungry people with a little bit of food. Today, we will get to hear a story about Jesus healing a man with hurt legs.

Can you point to your legs? What are some things our legs help us do? They help us walk, run, kick a soccer ball, jump, climb, and more. **Show me with your face how you would feel if you could not use or even move your arms or legs.**


One day, Jesus was teaching inside of a house. He wanted everyone to know that **God Is Good! On the count of three, let’s all say, “God Is Good!” 1–2–3! God Is Good!** Many, many people wanted to see and listen to Jesus. They all came to the house. So many people were at the house that they completely filled up the house, and no other people could come inside.

There was a man in the town who could not move his legs—he was paralyzed. He could not walk or run or jump. The man had four friends. *(Count to four.)* These four friends heard that Jesus was in town and wanted to take their friend to see Jesus. They knew Jesus had the power to heal people. They carried the paralyzed man to Jesus on a mat. *(Spread the towel out on the floor like a mat.)*

When they got to the house, they could not get in the house to see Jesus because there were so many people there. But the friends did not give up because they believed that Jesus could heal their friend. So, the four friends carried their friend on his mat to the roof of the house! That must have taken a lot of work! Then, they cut a hole in the roof of the house. And as Jesus was teaching the people in the house, the four friends lowered the paralyzed

man on the mat down to where Jesus was. *(Show the picture.)*

Jesus saw that the four friends and the paralyzed man had faith—that they trusted Jesus. Jesus told the man who could not walk that his sins were forgiven. Jesus forgave the man of his sins and gave him a healthy heart that loves and trusts Jesus. Then, Jesus healed the paralyzed man’s body! Jesus told him to get up off of his mat and walk home.

 *Read Mark 2:12 from the Bible.* **God Is Good!** God knows our needs and helps us! He helped the man who could not walk. When Jesus healed the paralyzed man, everyone saw that **God Is Good** and worshiped Him!

➔ Jesus healed many people when He was here on earth. **God Is Good** to heal people. He doesn’t just heal people’s bodies; He heals their hearts! Jesus knows that the most important thing sinners need is a healthy heart—even more important than a healthy body. **God Is Good!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is Good.” 1–2–3. God Is Good. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is Good,” with a big, deep voice. 1–2–3. God Is Good. Now, everyone,

stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ When people heard that Jesus was at a house, what did they do? *(They went to find Jesus in the house to hear Him teach about God.)*
- ☐ There was one man who wanted to see and hear Jesus for a very special reason. What was wrong with this man? *(His legs didn’t work, and he couldn’t walk.)*
- ☐ Who brought this man to see Jesus? *(His four friends)*
- ☐ Why couldn’t the man and his friends get into the house? *(It was too full of people who were listening to Jesus.)*
- ☐ Did the friends just give up and go home? *(No!)*
- ☐ What did the four friends do to get the lame man to Jesus? *(They climbed onto the roof and made a hole in it and then lowered their friend through the hole.)*
- ☐ Did Jesus heal this man? *(Yes! He healed his heart of sin AND his body!)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“God Is Good!”*



Jesus Heals
a Lame Man



God Is Good





GOD IS
GOOD



John 9

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD MADE EVERYTHING

Supplies: clear bowl, dirt,
cup, water, pictures, God's
Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." **John 9:2–3**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning from the Bible all about Jesus. Jesus is God the Son. We learned that after Jesus was born, He grew up and taught many people about God. Jesus did amazing miracles to show that He was God and that His words about God were true. **A miracle is something amazing and special that shows God's power. On the count of three, let's all say, "Miracle!" 1–2–3! Miracle!**

In the Bible, we have been learning about a miracle Jesus did when He healed a man who could not walk. Jesus healed the man's legs so that he could walk, and Jesus healed his heart

so that he could love God!

Today, we are going to talk about another miracle Jesus did when He healed a man who could not see. Jesus has the power to heal eyes because Jesus made eyes. Jesus is God, and **God Made Everything!**

Everyone, close your eyes. With your eyes closed, think about what it would be like to get ready in the morning and come to church. Are your eyes closed? Okay. Do you think it would be easy or hard to find your clothes? Brush your teeth? Eat breakfast? Drive? It would be pretty hard, right? **Everyone, open your eyes.** Wow! This man could see nothing ever since he was born. He was born blind and needed a lot of help so he begged for things he needed outside.

📖 Then one day, Jesus and His very good friends and followers, the disciples, walked by, and when the disciples saw the man born blind, they asked Jesus a question. Let's read what the disciples asked Him from the Bible. *(Read John 9:2 from the Bible.)*

In those days, people thought that if someone was born blind, someone must have sinned to make them blind. **Sin is anything we say,**

think or do that is different than what God wants.

If someone was born blind, they thought God was punishing them for their sin, but they were wrong.

📖 Let's read what Jesus told His disciples from the Bible. *(Read John 9:3 from the Bible.)*

Jesus knew that **God Made Everything**. God made the blind man with eyes that could not see, and God had a good, perfect plan for his eyes. Jesus wanted His disciples to remember that God shows us wonderful things about who He is and what He is like through people who can't see or hear or walk, and God wanted to show the disciples something wonderful about Jesus.

Jesus knelt down and made some mud on the ground with His spit. Now, that might sound a little yucky, but do you remember how God made the very first person, Adam? God made Adam using His mouth *(point to your mouth)* and some dirt from the ground *(point to the dirt)*. Jesus made mud with spit from His mouth *(pour water into the bowl of dirt)* and some dirt from the ground *(stir it up)* to remind them how **God Made Everything** and to show them He is God!

After Jesus made the mud, He put it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash it off in a pool of water nearby. So the blind man went to the pool, washed off the mud, opened his eyes, and guess what? He could see! It was a miracle! Many people heard how Jesus healed the man born blind and believed, but some did not. They did not love or trust Jesus because their hearts were sick with sin.

✈ All of our hearts are sick with sin, and sin separates us from God BUT God send His only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for sins. Jesus didn't stay dead though. Jesus came back to life and beat death so that anyone who loves and trusts Him can get a new, healthy heart that loves God and can be with God forever!



Jesus Healing
the Man
Born Blind



Blind Man
Healed



God Made
Everything

God Made Everything and makes new, healthy hearts in us when we love and trust Jesus!

On the count of three, we're going to whisper, "God Made Everything." 1—2—3. God Made Everything. On the count of three, we are going to say, "God Made Everything," with a tiny mouse voice. 1—2—3. God Made Everything. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "God Made Everything!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Made Everything! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for making everything.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God's Big Story. *(Point in between "Jesus is Born" and "Jesus Dies on the Cross" circles on the timeline.)*
- ☐ Who is Jesus? *(God the Son)*
- ☐ What was different about the man Jesus and His disciples saw? *(He was blind.)*
- ☐ Was he born blind because he sinned? *(No! God had an amazing plan for his life.)*
- ☐ What amazing thing did Jesus do for the man? *(He healed his eyes.)*
- ☐ What is something amazing and special that shows God's power *(A miracle)*
- ☐ Why can Jesus heal people's eyes and hearts and make them new again? *(Jesus is God!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"God Made Everything!"*







JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



John 11:1–44

Jesus Raises Lazarus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

Supplies: picture of a tomb, strips of cloth

KEY TEXT Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” **John 11:25–26**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

The disciples, Jesus’ very good friends, got to see many of the miracles that Jesus did. Remember, **a miracle is something amazing that doesn’t normally happen and shows God’s power.**

The disciples saw Jesus walk on water, feed many people with only a little food, and calm a storm. Often, Jesus did miracles to show that He is God and that **God Is in Charge of Everything**—creation, sickness, and even death!

Jesus loved His very good friends and followers, the disciples, but He had lots of other friends whom He loved too! Today we’re going to talk about three of Jesus’ friends. **Let’s all count to three! 1–2–3!** Their names were Mary, Martha,

and Lazarus. **On the count of three, let’s say, “Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.” 1–2–3! Mary, Martha, and Lazarus!**

One day, Jesus’ friend Lazarus got very sick. He was so sick, his sisters Mary and Martha thought he was about to die, so they sent Jesus a message that Lazarus was sick because they knew Jesus loved Lazarus and could make him better. When Jesus got their message about Lazarus, He wasn’t worried though. He knew that God is in charge of our bodies and sickness. **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

Sadly, just two days later, Lazarus died. His sisters, Mary and Martha, put his body in a tomb. A tomb is a hole carved into a hill or a rock. When people died, they were wrapped in strips of cloth (*show the strips of cloth*) and placed inside a tomb.

Even though Lazarus was dead and buried in the tomb, Jesus told His disciples He was going to go where Lazarus was buried and bring Him back to life. How could Jesus bring Lazarus back to life if he had already died? Because Jesus is God, and **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

📖 When Jesus and His disciples got to the town where his friends lived, Lazarus’ sister, Martha, went to meet Jesus and she said: *(Read from*

the Bible) **“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.’”**

Martha, Mary, and everyone in the town where Lazarus lived knew that he had died, and they were very sad. When Jesus saw how sad they all were, the Bible says that Jesus wept. He cried very hard because Jesus loved Lazarus too.

Martha believed that Jesus was God. He could heal Lazarus even though he had already died. She believed that whatever Jesus asked God to do, He could because **God Is in Charge of Everything**, even sickness and death.

So, Jesus prayed and thanked God for always hearing His prayers. Then, Jesus shouted in a loud voice for Lazarus to get up. *(Read John 11:43 from the Bible.)* **“When he [Jesus] had said these things [prayed], he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’”** *(in a loud voice)* And he did! Lazarus walked out of the tomb, still wrapped in his burial

clothes. Jesus told the people watching to unwrap Lazarus and to let him go!

✈️ God heard Jesus' prayer, and Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead! It was a miracle! Some people did not understand why Jesus would let Lazarus die and raise Him back to life instead of just healing him when he was sick, but Jesus knew this was the best way to show them God's power. Jesus showed them that he is stronger than death because Jesus is God and **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

We all have hearts sick with sin, and our sin separates us from God when we die. But God sent Jesus to be born as a baby, live a perfect life, die on the cross for our sins, and raise back to life so that whoever loves and trusts Jesus can be with God forever.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "God Is in Charge of Everything." 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. On the count of three, we are going to say, "God Is in Charge of Everything," in a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "God Is in Charge of Everything." If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything! Everyone, sit down!

Let's pray and thank God for being in charge of everything, even death!

Review Questions

- ☐ What is something amazing that doesn't normally happen and shows God's power called? *(A miracle)*
- ☐ Jesus had a very good friend who was sick. What was his name? *(Lazarus)*
- ☐ Who told Jesus that Lazarus was about to die? *(Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha)*
- ☐ When Jesus saw how sad everyone was, what did he do? *(He wept.)*
- ☐ When Jesus came to the place where Lazarus was buried, he prayed to God. Did God hear Jesus' prayer? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Then what happened? *(Lazarus came back to life!)*
- ☐ Who is the only One with the power to bring someone back to life? *(God!)*



Jesus Wept



Jesus Raises
Lazarus



God Is in
Charge of
Everything







**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**



Matthew 8:23–27

Jesus Calms a Storm

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD MADE EVERYTHING

Supplies: bowl of water,
noisemaker, picture of Jesus
sleeping during the storm,
God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?” **Matthew 8:27**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about miracles that Jesus did while He was here on earth. **A miracle is something amazing and special that shows God’s power.** Jesus can do miracles because Jesus is God. Jesus fed a very big group of hungry people with a little bit of food. Jesus healed a man who could not walk. Today, we get to hear a story about Jesus telling the wind and water what to do.

(Show the children the bowl of water. Spend a moment giving the water commands: make waves, splash out of the bowl, splash the children.) The water in this bowl does not listen to me. It does not do what I ask it to do. I cannot command the water to do something with just my voice. But God can use just

His voice to command things to happen. He has the power to tell any thing to do anything because He is God. **God Made Everything!** He made the whole world simply by speaking! That’s amazing! One day, Jesus was on a boat with His 12 disciples. Disciples were friends and followers of Jesus. While Jesus and the disciples were sailing on the boat, suddenly a great, big storm came!

The wind began to blow! *(Use the noisemaker to make the sound of wind.)* Lightning began to flash. *(Turn the lights off and on quickly.)* And the boat began to rock back and forth. *(Rock your body back and forth.)* The disciples were terrified! **Can you show me a scared face?**

And do you know what Jesus was doing in the middle of the storm? He was sleeping! **Can you pretend to be asleep?** *(Show the picture of Jesus sleeping.)*

The disciples were so scared, so they woke Jesus up. They thought they were about to die! They wanted Jesus to help them.

Jesus woke up and told the storm to stop. **He said, (say with a whisper and calmly) “Peace. Be still.”** *(Show the picture of Jesus calming the storm.)*

Jesus could tell the wind and waves and lightning what to do because He made them! Jesus is God and **God Made Everything!** The wind and waves and lightning listened to their Creator and obeyed Him. The wind stopped. The waves were still. The lightning stopped. And everything was still and calm. *(Show the picture of the peaceful sea.)*

Jesus calmed the storm! And the disciples were amazed! **Can you show me a surprised face?**

📖 *Read Matthew 8:27 from the Bible.*

➔ **God Made Everything!** And **God Is in Charge of Everything.** Jesus calmed the storm to show His great power. Jesus rescued the disciples from the storm. But He also rescued His children from sin and death when He died on the cross and rose from the dead.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is in Charge of Everything.” 1–2–3. God Is in Charge of Everything. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is in Charge of Everything,” in a very slow voice. 1–2–3. God Is in Charge of Everything. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is in Charge of Everything!”

If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Is in Charge of Everything! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God's Big Story. *(Point in-between the "Jesus Is Born" and "Jesus Dies on the Cross" circles on the timeline.)*
- ☐ In our story, where were Jesus and His disciples? *(On a boat in the water)*
- ☐ What happened that made the disciples so scared? *(A big storm came and made huge waves.)*
- ☐ Where was Jesus during this time? *(He was sleeping in the boat.)*
- ☐ Was Jesus able to make the waves and the storm stop? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Why was Jesus able to make the waves and the storm stop? *(Because Jesus is God and God Made Everything!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"God Made Everything!"*



**Jesus Sleeping
in the Storm**



**Even Winds and
Sea Obey Him**



**The Peaceful
Sea**



**God Made
Everything**









John 4:1–45

Jesus Loves a Woman at a Well

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: map, makeshift well, picture of Jesus with the woman at the well, Sick Heart poster

KEY TEXT The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” **John 4:25–26**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have learned about some wonderful miracles that Jesus did. **A miracle is something amazing and special that shows God’s power.** Jesus fed 5,000 people with just a little food, He healed a man, and He calmed a storm!

Today, we will start learning stories from the Bible about how Jesus loved sinners.

(Show the map and point to the locations when you talk about them.) Jesus was going from one city here to another city, here. To get there, Jesus had to walk through a place called Samaria. **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Samaria!” 1–2–3! Samaria!**

Jewish people, like Jesus, often went around Samaria *(trace a path around the mountains from the X to the other X on the map)* because they did not like the people of Samaria! Walking through Samaria was the easiest way to get from this city *(point to first X)* to that city *(point to second X)*, but some Jews did not care. They went out of their way and walked all the way around Samaria instead. The Jews thought they were better than the Samaritans. They did not want to be around Samaritans, and they definitely did not talk to them! But Jesus was different.

Jesus walked through Samaria and stopped to rest at a well. **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Well!” 1–2–3! Well!** *(Show makeshift well.)* A well is a deep hole in the ground where people get water. Back then, you could not get water from the sink or bathtub in your house. Everyone went to the well to get water. A woman from Samaria came to the well to get water. Remember, Jews did not talk to Samaritans. Men also did not talk to women who were not part of their family.

When the woman came to the well, Jesus asked her to give Him some water. *(Show the picture of Jesus with the woman at the well.)* The woman was so surprised that Jesus spoke to her. **Show me a surprised face!** She knew that

Jesus was a Jew and Jews did not talk to Samaritans. She did not know that Jesus was the Son of God or that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

📖 The woman at the well had a heart sick with sin. *(Point to the Sick Heart poster.)* Jesus told her He knew all about her sin. Jesus knew all about her because Jesus is God. Jesus knew she needed to be rescued from her sin. Jesus came to earth to save the woman from her sins. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** Jesus told the woman that He was the Messiah who had come to save sinners and give them life with God forever. *(Read John 4:25–26 from the Bible.)*

The woman believed Jesus and ran to tell others in Samaria that she had met Jesus! Turn to a neighbor and tell them that you have great news! Now, turn to your neighbor and say, **“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”**

Many people believed her and they came to talk with Jesus. They knew they were all sinners and that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

✈ The woman at the well, the people of Samaria, and you and I are all sinners. *(Point to the children and yourself while speaking.)* We are all born with hearts that are sick with sin. We all

need Jesus. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** He came to give healthy hearts to everyone who loves and trusts Him and to help them fight sin. Jesus did not just come for the Jews. He did not just come for people who look like Him or sound like Him. Jesus came for all who would believe in Him. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** That is great news! **Everyone, cheer and clap with me!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” in a tiny mouse voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for sending Jesus to save sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Where was Jesus when He stopped at the well? *(Samaria)*
- ☐ Did Jewish people talk to Samaritans? *(No!)*
- ☐ Did men talk to women who were not part of their family? *(No!)*
- ☐ Jesus told the woman two things. What did He tell her? *(Jesus told her all about her life and that He came to save sinners!)*
- ☐ Did the woman believe Jesus? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ What did the woman do next? *(She ran to tell everyone that she had met the Savior!)*
- ☐ Did the people believe her? *(Yes, and they came to talk to Jesus and believed that He was the Savior!)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*



Samaria



Jesus Loves
the Woman
at the Well



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners



Samaria

A stylized map of Samaria. The left side features a blue coastline. The land is a light orange color. A dotted line path starts from a red 'X' in the bottom left, goes up and to the right, and ends at another red 'X' in the top right. To the right of the path, there are several small, light orange chevron symbols pointing upwards.





JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 18:15–17

Jesus Loves Children

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

Supplies: pictures of children, Jesus with children, God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” **Luke 18:16**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about the life of Jesus. We learned about miracles that Jesus did, like when He fed 5,000 people with just a little food, healed a man, and calmed a storm! And last week, we started learning about how Jesus loved sinners.

Today, we are learning a story from the Bible about how Jesus loved children just like you. Children are people, and God made people precious. He made each person in His own likeness—the **imago dei**. *(Point to the children.)*

Jesus had some very good friends and followers called His disciples. Sometimes the disciples did some silly or unhelpful things. One day, lots and lots of people were coming to hear Jesus teach about God. Not only were grownups coming to

hear Jesus teach, but mommies and daddies were also bringing their children to see and hear Jesus. The parents wanted Jesus to spend time with their children.

The disciples were getting mad at the parents who were bringing their children to talk with Jesus! **Can you show me a mad face?** The disciples told the parents to take the little children away. *(Point away from the group.)*

The disciples didn't think that Jesus had enough time to play with children. The disciples thought that Jesus needed to do something “more important” than spend time with children. *(Show the picture of the disciples stopping the children.)*

When Jesus heard that the disciples were telling the parents and children to go away, He stopped the disciples and reminded His disciples how much He loved spending time with children. *(Show the picture of Jesus talking to the disciples.)* Jesus wanted all the children to come to Him. Jesus had to remind His disciples how much **God Wants to Talk With Us**.

📖 Jesus said—*(Read Luke 18:16 from the Bible.)*

(Show the picture of Jesus with the children.)

Jesus wanted to talk with the children who were coming to see Him. He wanted to hear what they said and wanted to tell them about God. He wanted to remind them children are precious to God. **God Wants to Talk With Us!**

✈️ Jesus knew that children are special! He wanted to talk with the children and teach them about God. Jesus loves children just like you! Jesus wants to talk with us, too! **God Wants to Talk With Us!** We do not bother Him. We are important and special to Jesus—not because of what we do or how helpful or good we are. When we love and trust Jesus, we can talk with Him anytime. We can talk with Jesus through prayer. *(Make praying hands.)* And God talks with us through the Bible, His true Word. *(Show the Bible.)* God loves us and always wants to talk with us!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Wants to Talk With Us.”
1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Wants to Talk With Us,” with praying hands.
1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Wants to Talk With Us!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Wants to Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for talking with us through the Bible and prayer.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God's Big Story. *(Point in-between "Jesus Is Born" and "Jesus Dies on the Cross" circles on the timeline.)*
- ☐ Who were the disciples? *(Jesus' very good friends and followers)*
- ☐ Who was trying to come and talk with Jesus? *(Lots of people, including mommies and daddies and little children)*
- ☐ When the disciples saw that parents were bringing their kids to see and talk with Jesus, what did the disciples do? *(They told the parents to take their children and go away.)*
- ☐ Why did the disciples tell the parents to take their children away from Jesus? *(They thought Jesus was too busy to talk to children and that Jesus had more important things to do.)*
- ☐ Did Jesus want to talk with the children? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Did Jesus think that He was too busy or too important to talk with children? *(No!)*
- ☐ What are some ways that we can talk with God? *(Prayer, singing, reading the Bible)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"God Wants to Talk With Us!"*



Disciples Stop
the Children



Jesus Rebukes
the Disciples



Jesus Loves
the Children

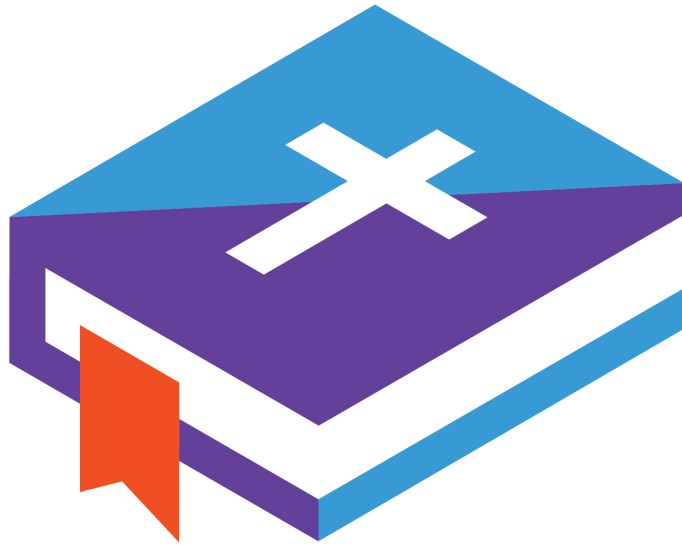


God Wants to
Talk With Us









GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



Luke 19:1–10

Jesus Loves Zacchaeus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: gold coins
in a small bag

KEY TEXT And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. **Luke 19:5–6**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about the life of Jesus. We learned about miracles that Jesus did, like when He fed 5,000 people with just a little food, healed a man, and calmed a storm! And we have learned about how Jesus loved sinners. He gave a sinful woman at a well a heart that loved and trusted Him and talked with little children who came to see Him. Many people heard about these things that Jesus had done, and they wanted to see Jesus and hear Jesus teach that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**.

One of the men who wanted to hear and see Jesus was named Zacchaeus. **On the count of three, say, “Zacchaeus!” 1–2–3!**

Zacchaeus! Zacchaeus was a man who had heard about Jesus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He had lots and lots of money *(show the bag of money)*, but he stole most of his money from other people when they paid their taxes. He would take more money from people than he was supposed to, and then he would keep the extra money for himself. *(Give an example of this by giving a child five coins, tell them you are only supposed to take two coins from them, but actually take all five of them. Put the extra coins in your pocket.)*

God says that stealing is a sin! God knows what is best, and Zacchaeus was not doing what was best. Zacchaeus had a lot of money, but because he stole from other people, he did not have a lot of friends.

One day, Jesus came to visit the town where Zacchaeus lived. Zacchaeus had heard all about Jesus, and he wanted to go see Jesus to find out what Jesus had to say. Zacchaeus went to where Jesus was, but, like always, there was a HUGE *(spread out your arms)* crowd of people around Jesus. Zacchaeus could not see over all the people because he was a small man! *(Give an example of how hard it was to see by bringing up a child to stand behind you and try and look over your*

head.) Zacchaeus had an idea: He saw a big sycamore tree and he decided to climb it to get a better view of Jesus. Zacchaeus climbed up into the tree *(pretend to climb)*. He looked out *(pretend to look out)* and saw Jesus in the middle of the big crowd. Jesus was walking toward the tree where Zacchaeus was sitting.

📖 All of a sudden, Jesus stopped right next to the tree where Zacchaeus was sitting! Then Jesus looked up in the tree *(look up)* and started to talk to Zacchaeus! The Bible tells us what Jesus said. *(Read Luke 19:5–6 from the Bible.)*

Zacchaeus hurried down the tree as quickly as he could. Then he led Jesus to his house to stay. Zacchaeus was so happy that Jesus was coming to see him and talk to him. Jesus gave Zacchaeus a new heart that loved and trusted Him. Zacchaeus decided to repay all of the people whom he had stolen from *(give all five coins from your pocket and more back to the child you took it from)*. The Bible even says he gave back more than he took from people!

➔ Zacchaeus was a sinner who loved money, but that did not mean Jesus did not want to spend time with Zacchaeus. Jesus loved people who were sinners, just like you and me. *(Point to everyone and yourself.)* In fact, **Jesus Came**

to Save Sinners! Jesus came to earth and spent lots of time teaching people all about God. Then, Jesus died on the cross to save all who would believe in Him. But Jesus didn't stay dead. After **1—2—3** days, Jesus came back to life!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, turn to the person next to you and say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Review Questions

- ☐ What was Zacchaeus' job? *(He was a tax collector.)*
- ☐ What was Zacchaeus doing that was wrong? *(He was stealing money from people when he took their taxes.)*
- ☐ Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus? *(He had heard about all the things that Jesus had done and wanted to hear Him speak.)*
- ☐ What was Zacchaeus' problem when he went to see Jesus? *(He couldn't see Jesus over the crowd.)*
- ☐ What was the solution to his problem? *(He found a tree and climbed it so that he could see Jesus over the crowd.)*
- ☐ After Zacchaeus got into the tree, what did Jesus do? *(Jesus walked up to the tree and started talking to Zacchaeus.)*
- ☐ What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to do? *(He told him to come out of the tree so that they could go to Zacchaeus' house.)*
- ☐ Did Zacchaeus obey? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ What did Zacchaeus decide to do after he spent time with Jesus? *(He decided to give away half of his money and repay all of the people whom he had stolen from.)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*



Jesus Loves
Zacchaeus



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners





JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Luke 10:25–37

Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: bandages, coins

KEY TEXT “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.” **Luke 10:36-37**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about the life of Jesus. We learned about some wonderful miracles that Jesus did, like when He fed 5,000 people with just a little food, He walked on water, He healed a man, and He calmed a storm! We have learned about how Jesus loved and treated sinners. He gave a sinful woman at a well a heart that loved and trusted Him and talked with little children that came to see Him. **God Is Good!**

Today, we are learning a story from the Bible about how Jesus wants those who love and trust Him to treat others.

One day, a lawyer asked Jesus what he needed to do to go to heaven. The man knew that the Bible said he should love and trust God most and should love his neighbors as much as he loved himself. The man asked Jesus who his neighbor was. To help the man understand how to show love and who to show love to, Jesus told this story.

One day, a man was travelling and was attacked by robbers. The robbers took everything he had, even his clothes! The robber hurt the man very badly. It was so sad! **Can you show me a sad face?**

The hurt man could not get up. He was laying on the side of the road when a priest walked by. The priest did not stop to help the hurt man. In fact, he crossed the road so he would not even have to walk near the hurt man. **Did the priest who said he loved God show love to the hurt man? No!**

Then, a Levite also walked by. The Levite did not stop to help the hurt man either. He also crossed the road so that he would not have to walk near the hurt man. **Did the Levite who said he also loved God show love to the hurt man? No!**

Later, a Samaritan man walked by. **On the count of 3, let's all say “Samaritan!” 1–2–3! Samaritan!** Do you remember this word from our story of the woman at the well? She was a Samaritan too! **What do you remember about the Samaritans? (The Jews did not get along with them! Many of the people of God thought they were better than the Samaritans!)**


When the Samaritan man saw the hurt man, he wanted to help him, even though he knew the hurt man probably did not like him. The Samaritan man wrapped up the hurt man's cuts and gave him medicine. *(Show the bandages.)*

He set him on his own animal and took him to an inn. An inn is a place where people can pay to sleep and eat. At the inn, the Samaritan took care of the hurt man so he could begin to get better. Later, the Samaritan made sure the inn keeper would keep helping the hurt man and gave him money *(show the coins)* so the hurt man could stay at the inn until he was all better.

Did the Samaritan man show love to the hurt man? Yes!

Was it easy for the Samaritan man to show love to the hurt man? No!

The Samaritan knew that the hurt man probably did not like him. But he was kind to the hurt man anyway and took time to help him. He even spent his own money to help the man.

 After telling this story, Jesus asked the lawyer a question and gave him a command. *(Read Luke 10:36-37 from the Bible.)* Jesus told this story to help us understand how to show love and who we should show love to. God is like the Good Samaritan. He loves and helps people even when they sin and do not show love to Him. God wants us to do the same. God wants those who love and trust Jesus to love everyone—even the people who might not like us. God wants those who love and trust Jesus to love people even when it is hard, or takes a lot of time, or costs us something. God knows that it is not always easy to love others. God wants us to love others the way He loves us.

➔ **God Is Good!** God shows His love for us even when we are sinners and do not love Him. God loves us so much that He sent Jesus, His own Son, to live a perfect life and die on the cross to

save sinners. When we love and trust Jesus, we love others like God loves us.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is Good.” 1—2—3. God Is Good. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is Good,” with a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ In the story a man was traveling. What happened to the man? *(He was attacked by robbers who stole his things and hurt him very badly.)*
- ☐ Could the man get up and help himself? *(No, he was laying on the side of the road hurt.)*
- ☐ Someone walked by the hurt man. Did the first man who walked by the hurt man show him love? *(No!)*
- ☐ A second man walked by the hurt man. Did the second man show the hurt man love? *(No!)*
- ☐ Finally, a third man, a Samaritan, walked by the hurt man. Were they friends? *(No!)*
- ☐ How did the Samaritan help the hurt man? *(He bandaged his cuts, gave him medicine, picked him up and carried him on his animal to an inn, took care of the hurt man, paid the innkeeper to take care of him, and let him stay at the inn until he was all better.)*
- ☐ Did the Samaritan man show love to the hurt man? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Who does God want us to show love to? *(Everyone)*
- ☐ What is one special way God showed us that He loves us? *(He sent Jesus to die on the cross to save sinners!)*



Three Men
Pass by the
Hurt Man



The Samaritan
Helps the
Hurt Man



God Is Good



the priest



the Levite



the Samaritan





GOD IS
GOOD



Luke 15:11–24

Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

Supplies: stuffed animal
sheep, 10 coins, robe

KEY TEXT “I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” **Luke 15:18–19**

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.” **Luke 15:22–24**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Our story today is from the Bible. The Bible is God's true Word. It is from God and about God.

We have spent lots of time talking about Jesus—who is God the Son—and many of the amazing things He did when He was on earth. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus did amazing miracles like heal people's bodies and walk on water. Jesus spent lots of time teaching

people about God because Jesus is God and **God Wants to Talk with Us!** God gave many people listening to Jesus new hearts that loved and trusted Him.

Many times when Jesus was teaching, He would use a parable. Who remembers what a parable is? That's right! **A parable is a story that teaches a lesson.** In the Bible, parables teach us about God like the parable we learned about last week, Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan.

This week, we're going to learn about another parable Jesus' taught, the parable of the Prodigal Son. In this story, we're going to learn that **God Wants to Talk with Us** even though we are sinners. God wants to be with His children and loves them no matter what they have done.

One day, when Jesus was teaching a big group of people about God, He told them this story.

Once, there was a father who had two sons, and the younger son asked his father to give him something very special and very valuable. He asked his father to give him everything that was going to be his after his father died. You see, in those days, a father would give his sons everything he had after he died—his

house, his land, his animals—but this father was still alive. The younger son didn't care. He didn't want to wait, so he asked his father to give him his share of the money early, and his father did. *Take the sheep and coins.* How do you think that made the father feel? He was probably hurt and sad.

A few days later, the son packed up his things, left home, and went away to a far off land to have lots and lots of fun doing very bad and foolish things. The son spent his father's money very quickly on things he didn't need. That's why he's called the “prodigal” son because the word “prodigal” means to give or spend a lot of something and he spent a lot of money very quickly.

When all the money was spent, the son had no other way to make money, so he took a very dirty job. He fed stinky, smelly pigs their stinky, smelly food. *Hold your fingers over your nose to make a stinky face.* The Bible even says the son was so poor and so hungry, he wished he could eat the stinky, smelly food he was feeding to the pigs. He had been foolish and needed help.

📖 Then, the son knew what he should do. He should go back to his father's house and apologize. Let's read what he planned on doing

from the Bible. *(Read Luke 15:18-19 from the Bible.)*

He thought his father would be upset and disappointed with him for spending all his money. Perhaps his father wouldn't even want to talk to him or be with him anymore. He wasn't sure, but he needed help so he started walking home to try and work for his father.

As the son was walking, while he was still far away, his father saw him coming home. How do you think the father felt when he saw his son? Angry? Happy? The father was so happy to see his son, he came running down the road to see him and gave him a big hug. The son started to apologize and asked his father to treat him like a hired servant, but the father didn't listen.



Let's read what the father in Jesus' story says from the Bible. *(Read Luke 15:22–24 from the Bible.)* The father was so happy that his son who had left had come home that he threw him a big party with the best food. He hugged him and kissed him and gave him new sandals and a robe (put on the robe) and ring. Why did the father give his son so much? He loved his son, and nothing could ever change that.

Jesus told us this story to help his listeners—and us—understand how much God loves us. Just like the father was so excited when his son came home, God is even more excited and happy when one of His children gets a new heart that loves and trusts Jesus. God loves His children, and nothing they could ever do would ever change that.



God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to tell us and show us what He is like. That's why Jesus told this parable. God wants

us to know Him and be with Him no matter how many bad or foolish things we've done because He loves us. **God Wants to Talk with Us**—that's why He sent Jesus.

But Jesus didn't just teach people about God's love. Jesus showed us God's love by dying on the cross for our sins. Remember, we are born with hearts that are sick with sin, and sin separates us from God forever BUT Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Then, Jesus died on the cross for our sin and came back to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trusts Him can get a new, healthy heart and be with God forever. Now, that's love! **God Wants to Talk with Us** and save us from our sin so we can be with Him and talk with Him forever.

Let's pray and thank God that God Wants to Talk with Us.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who are the two main characters in Jesus' parable? *(A father and his younger son)*
- ☐ What is a parable again? *(A story that teaches a lesson; in the Bible, they're about God)*
- ☐ In Jesus' story, what did the younger son ask his father? *(To give him all the money and things that would be his after his father died)*
- ☐ What did the son do with the money? *(He left and spent it on things that he did not need.)*
- ☐ After the money was spent, what job did the son do? *(He fed stinky, smelly pigs their food)*
- ☐ What did the son decide to do next? *(Apologize to his father and try to work for him)*
- ☐ What did the father do when he saw his son? *(He ran to him, hugged him, kissed him, gave him new things, and threw a big party for him because his son had come home.)*
- ☐ What does God do when one of His children gets a new, healthy heart that loves and trusts Jesus and is saved from their sin? *(He rejoices and celebrates in heaven!)*
- ☐ Why did Jesus teach this parable of God's love? *(Because God Wants to Talk with Us!)*



Foolish Son
Demands His
Inheritance
Early



Foolish Living
and the
Pig Farm



The Welcoming
Father

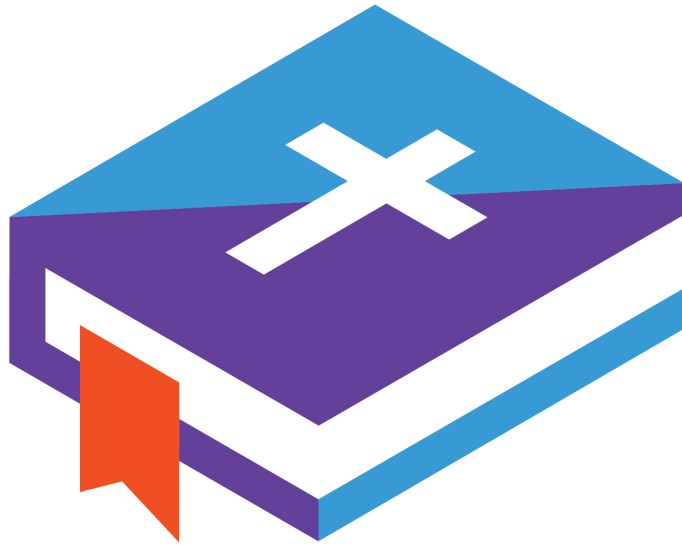


God Wants to
Talk With Us









GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



Luke 7:36–50

Jesus Forgives a Woman

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: bottle of perfume

KEY TEXT “Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” **Luke 7:47–48**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

The past couple of weeks, we have been learning about Jesus’ parables. Does anyone remember what a parable is? **A parable is a story that teaches a lesson.** Many times when Jesus was teaching, He would use a parable to teach people about God and about themselves—like in our story today!

Today, we’re going to talk about a woman who showed great love to Jesus and, when she did, Jesus taught a parable about why we love—or don’t love—God. We’re going to learn that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.**

One day, while Jesus was teaching people about God with His disciples, an important Jewish leader invited Jesus to eat with him at his house. This leader’s name was Simon. **On the count of three, say “Simon.” 1–2–3! Simon!** Simon taught the Israelites about God—or at least he was supposed to—and he wanted to hear more about what Jesus was teaching. So, Simon invited Jesus to eat with him in his home, which Jesus did.

While they were eating, a woman from that city walked into Simon’s house, but she was not invited because she was a sinner. She had done some very bad things, and Simon knew it so Simon did not want her there. *(Make a snooty face.)* Simon thought he was better and more important than her, but she knew that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** like her so she went right up to Jesus with some very nice and very expensive perfume.

(Show the perfume.) Now, it costs a lot of money to buy perfume today but, in those days, perfume was even more expensive because it was not easy to make. This perfume was also very nice so it must have been very expensive and special to her. The woman cried because she was so sorry


for her sins. She was so thankful for Jesus that she bowed down and kissed His feet which were dirty from walking around. She even washed Jesus’ feet with the tears that had fallen from her eyes and wiped them with her long, dark hair. Then, she took her bottle of expensive perfume and poured it—all of it—over Jesus’ feet which gave the room and Jesus a beautiful smell.

This woman had shown great love for Jesus, but Simon did not understand. He thought he was better than her and didn’t think he was a sinner, so Jesus told Simon this parable.

Once, there was a man who let two people *(hold up two fingers)* borrow money from him to pay him back. One person borrowed lots of money *(spread your hands far apart)* and the other borrowed a little *(bring your hands close together)*, but neither of them could pay the man back. Oh no! So, the man who let them borrow the money told them that they didn’t have to pay him back. He forgave them and they were both thankful.

Then, Jesus asked Simon which person was more thankful, the one who was forgiven of paying him back lots and lots of money or the

one who was forgiven of paying him back a little, and Simon answered Jesus correctly: the one who was forgiven more. He loved more because he had been forgiven more just like the woman at Jesus' feet.

 Let's read what Jesus says about her from the Bible. *(Read Luke 7:47–48 from the Bible.)*

This woman knew she was a sinner, but she also knew that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**. She trusted that her sins were forgiven, so she loved Jesus very much and showed Jesus her love by washing his feet with her tears, her hair, and her perfume.

Simon on the other hand had not shown Jesus love. Simon did not welcome Jesus to his house with a kiss which was like a hug in those days. Simon did not offer Jesus any water to wash His feet. Simon didn't even give Jesus oil, which was cheap, to show Him honor, but this woman had given Jesus an entire bottle of expensive perfume and had not stopped kissing His feet from the moment she arrived.

➔ Simon did not believe that he was a sinner who needed to be forgiven because his heart was sick with sin just like many people's hearts today. But, this woman knew she was a sinner who Jesus had forgiven. She knew that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** like her, and God gave her a new, healthy that loved Jesus very much.

That's why Jesus came, to save sinners like her, like you, and like me. We are all born with hearts that are sick with sin, and we've all sinned which separates us from God forever, but **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** by living the perfect life we've all failed to live. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and Jesus came back to life so that everyone who loves and trusts Him can live forever too with a new, healthy heart like His. So, have you been forgiven by Jesus? Are you thankful for Jesus and love Him very much? If your sins have been forgiven by Jesus, you will—very much.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," in a tiny mouse voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ In the story, who invited Jesus to eat with him at his house? *(Simon, an important, Jewish leader and teacher about God)*
- ☐ Who came to Simon's house uninvited? *(A woman who was a sinner)*
- ☐ Did Simon want her at his house? *(No! He thought he was better than her.)*
- ☐ Did the woman love Jesus? *(Yes, very much!)*
- ☐ How did she show her love for Jesus? *(She washed His feet with her tears and hair, and she poured her whole bottle of expensive perfume on His feet.)*
- ☐ What did Jesus tell Simon to help him understand what she was doing? *(A parable)*
- ☐ What was the lesson of Jesus' parable? *(Whoever is forgiven much loves much.)*
- ☐ Did Simon love Jesus? *(No, he had a heart that was sick with sin.)*
- ☐ What did Jesus do for the woman? *(He gave her a new heart and forgave her sin.)*
- ☐ Who did Jesus come to save? *(Jesus Came to Save Sinners like us!)*



Jesus Dines at
Simon's House



Woman Weeps
and Washes
Jesus' Feet



Jesus Forgives
the Sins of
the Woman



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Matthew 21; 26

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: photograph of a donkey, palm branches, picture of Jesus eating with the disciples, God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" **Matthew 21:9**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning from our Bible about the life of Jesus. We learned that Jesus taught people about God. We learned that Jesus did amazing miracles that showed God's power and that Jesus loved sinners. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

Today, we are going to learn about what Jesus did in the days before He died on the cross. Jesus and His very good friends and followers, the disciples, were going to a town called Jerusalem. **On the count of three, say, "Jerusalem!" 1—2—3! Jerusalem!** Jerusalem was the biggest and most important city. Jesus was going into

Jerusalem to show everyone that He was the promised Savior.

Jesus didn't come into Jerusalem on a big horse or anything fancy! Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on the back of a young donkey *(show the photograph of the donkey)*.

A huge crowd with lots and lots of people came to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem. They laid their coats down and big leaves called palm branches on the ground *(lay palm branches on the ground)*. They worshiped Jesus like a king!

📖 In the Bible it says—*(Read Matthew 21:9 from the Bible.)* Hosanna means, "Hooray, the Savior is here!" **Everybody say, "Hosanna, Hosanna!" and wave pretend palm branches.**

Jesus stayed in Jerusalem and taught the people there about God.

Four days later, Jesus and His disciples shared a very special meal together. *(Show picture of Jesus eating with the disciples.)* This was the last meal they ate together

before Jesus died on the cross. At the meal, Jesus gave the disciples a cup of wine and some bread and told them, "Eat and drink to remember Me."

This is a special meal that God's people still eat today. Every time God's people eat it, they are reminded of God's plan to save His people. They are reminded that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

➔ Jesus came to fix all that was broken because of sin. Jesus came to change hearts that are sick with sin *(point to the Sick Heart poster)* to new, healthy hearts that love and trust Him *(point to Healthy Heart poster)*.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," in a very slow voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God's Big Story. *(Point in-between the "Jesus Is Born" and "Jesus Dies on the Cross" circles on the timeline.)*
- ☐ What town did Jesus and His disciples travel to? *(Jerusalem)*
- ☐ Were the people excited to see Jesus? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ What did the people say and do to welcome Jesus? *(They said "Hosanna," and laid their coats and big leaves on the ground.)*
- ☐ Who did Jesus teach about in Jerusalem? *(He taught the people about God.)*
- ☐ What did Jesus eat with His disciples? *(A special meal that would help them to remember Him)*
- ☐ Who did Jesus come to save? *(Sinners)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"*



Finding the Donkeys



Jesus Riding on the Foal



Entering Jerusalem



The Last Supper



Jesus Came to Save Sinners











JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



John 2:13–22

Jesus Clears the Temple

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

Supplies: a small rope whip, a small table or stool stacked with papers, gold coins

KEY TEXT And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, ‘Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade. **John 2:15–16**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about Jesus and all the amazing things Jesus did while He was on earth. Jesus walked on water. He fed lots of people with just a little bit of food. He healed people who could not walk or see. Jesus also spent lots of time with sinners and taught them many things about God because **God Wants to Talk With Us**.

Last week, we talked about how Jesus rode into the big, important city of Jerusalem and

how many people welcomed Jesus like a king. They wanted Jesus to save them from the people who were in charge of them, but Jesus came to save them from an even bigger problem—their sin.

That’s what we’re going to talk about today, how Jesus told the people in Jerusalem about their sin and how He was going to save them by dying on the cross and coming back to life. **God Wants to Talk With Us** about our sin and about Jesus, the Savior!

Well, not everyone in Jerusalem listened to Jesus or welcomed him like a king. Some leaders in the temple did not like Jesus at all. *(Cross your arms and make a snooty face.)* They were jealous that many people were following Jesus, and they thought that what He was saying about God was wrong!

Remember, **the temple was the place where God’s people, the Israelites, worshiped God together**, sort of like a church today. What kind of things do we do at church? We worship God by singing to Him and remembering how good He is. We hear stories about God and learn even more about Him from the Bible. We talk to God through prayer

because **God Wants to Talk With Us**, and we talk to one another so we can help each other love and trust God more!

Well, one day, while Jesus was in Jerusalem, He went to the temple and He saw something that made Him very upset. **Can you make an upset face?** He did not hear people singing to God or remembering how good God is. He did not see people listening to God’s Word or talking with God through prayer. Jesus did not see people helping each other love and trust God more—just the opposite! Jesus saw people selling animals.

Some people in the temple had decided to stop worshiping God and were trying to make lots of money instead. This made Jesus angry because it meant God’s people loved money more than they loved God, which is a sin. Is having lots of money better than worshiping God? No! **God Wants to Talk With Us**, and He is way better than money!

📖 So Jesus did something to tell the people and leaders in the temple that they were sinning. Let’s read what Jesus did from the Bible. *(Read John 2:15–16 from the Bible.)*

Can you believe it? Jesus knocked over the tables (*knock over the stool with paper and gold coins*) people were using to buy and sell animals and used a whip to drive their animals away (*pretend to drive animals away with the whip*). He told them to stop using the temple to buy and sell animals, to stop loving money more than they loved God! God wanted to talk to His people in the temple, and the temple was where God's people were supposed to be talking with Him!

Does it sound a little strange for Jesus to get angry and knock tables over? A little, but remember, Jesus never sinned, and it's not a sin to be angry. It's good to be angry at the things God is angry at—like sin, selfishness, and the love of money. Sometimes, after we have been sinning for a long time, God does something loud and surprising—like Jesus flipping over tables—to wake us up and get our attention. Sometimes, we need God's help to remind us what's true again and that's exactly what Jesus did. Jesus reminded the people in the temple that God is better than money, that **God Wants to Talk With Us!**

Well, this made the leaders of the temple angry with Jesus—but not the good kind of anger. They did not like Jesus telling them that they were sinning. They thought they were so important that **only prophets who speak for God and deliver God's messages to His people** could talk to them like that. So, they asked Jesus to do a miracle and prove He was a prophet, maybe then they would listen to Him—but Jesus would not do it.

Jesus told them the miracle He would do for them would be to die on the cross and come back to life. Then, they would know He was a prophet. Then, they would know that He was the king from David's family and the Savior God promised to send, but they did not understand Jesus, and they did not believe Him. They were angry and wanted to keep making money, so they started looking for a way to kill Jesus and, soon, they found one.

✈ We come to church to worship and learn about God. God made us to know Him, love, trust, and obey Him, and He is WAY better than toys, family, money, or anything else! **God Wants to Talk With Us** as we sing, read the Bible, and pray. That's why Jesus

cleared the temple of all those people selling animals—because they were sinning.

We all sin because we are all born with hearts that are sick with sin, and sin separates us from God forever, BUT the good news about Jesus is that Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Then, Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and came back to life so that everyone who loves and trusts Him can get a new, healthy heart and be with God forever! **God Wants to Talk with Us** about Jesus and save us from our sin!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Wants to Talk With Us.” 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Wants to Talk With Us,” with praying hands. 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Wants to Talk With Us!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Wants to Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down.

Pray; thank God for wanting to talk with us!

Review Questions

- ☐ What big, important city did Jesus and His disciples travel to? (*Jerusalem*)
- ☐ Who was jealous of Jesus and thought He was wrong? (*The temple leaders*)
- ☐ What was the temple? (*The place where God's people worshiped God together*)
- ☐ When Jesus went to the temple, did He see the Israelites worshiping God? (*No*)
- ☐ What were they doing instead? (*Trying to make money by selling animals*)
- ☐ How did that make Jesus feel? (*Very upset and angry*)
- ☐ What did Jesus do? (*He knocked over their tables, drove their animals away, and told them they were sinning by loving money more than God.*)
- ☐ Did the temple leaders listen to Jesus? (*No, they thought they were too important and asked Jesus to do a miracle to prove He was a prophet.*)
- ☐ What miracle did Jesus tell them He would do? (*Die and come back to life*)
- ☐ How can we talk with God today? (*Sing to Him, listen to His Word, pray, etc. God Wants to Talk With Us!*)



The Temple Is
for Worship



Buying and
Selling in
the Temple



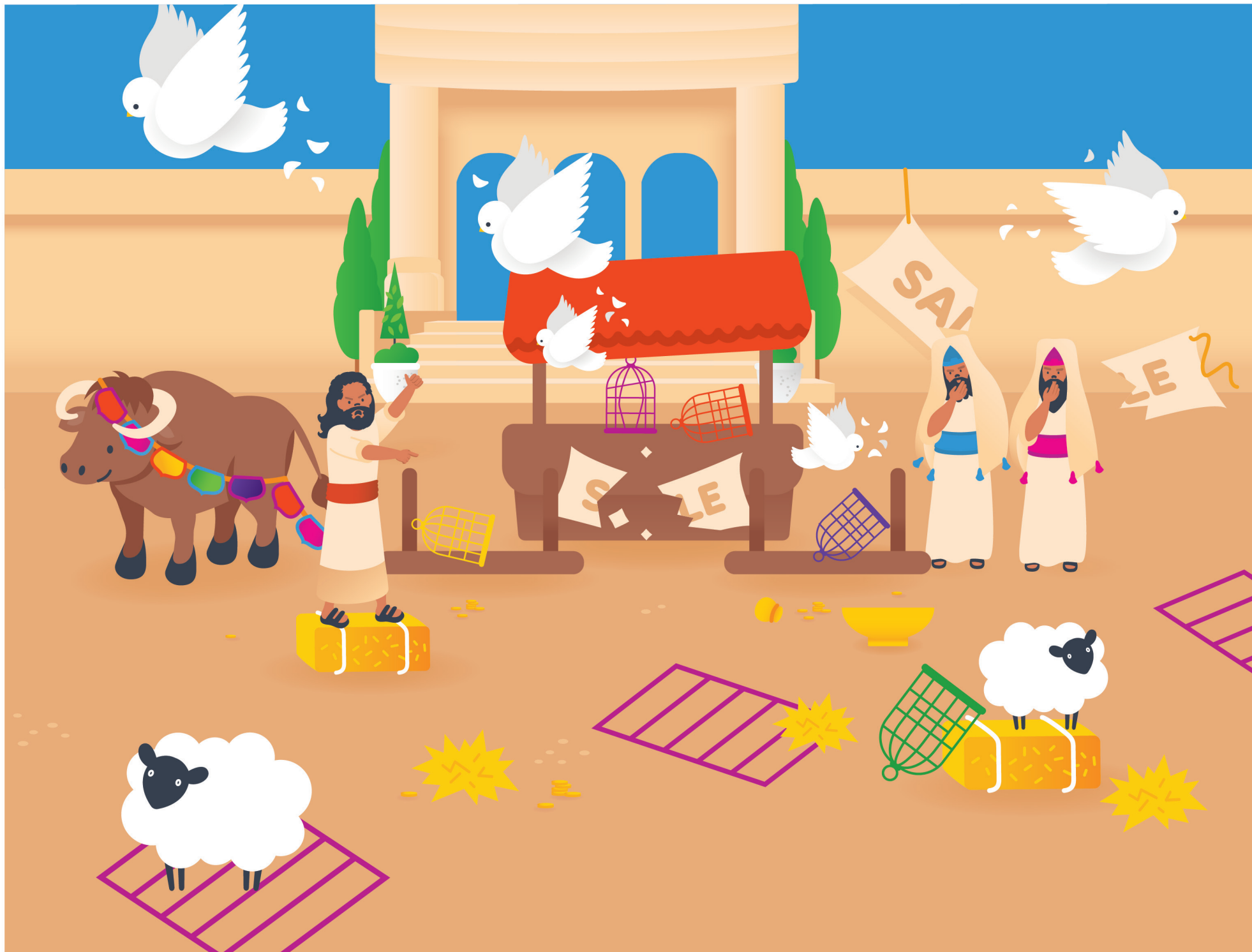
Jesus Knocking
Over Tables in
the Temple

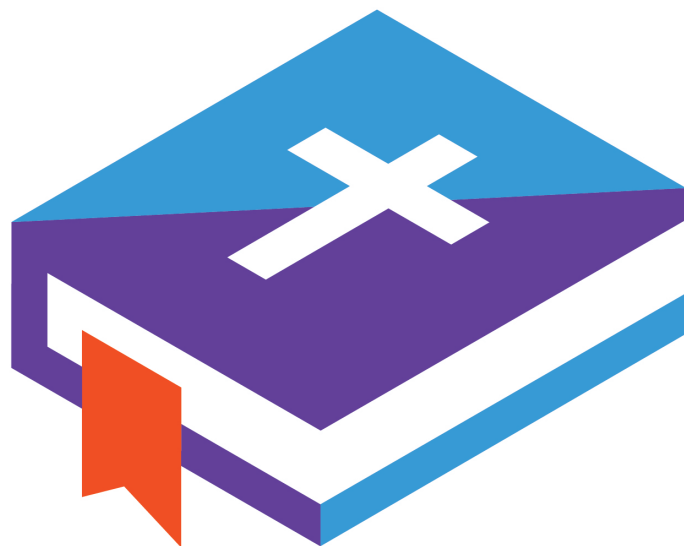


God Wants to
Talk With Us









GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



Luke 23

Jesus Dies on the Cross

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

KEY TEXT Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. **Luke 23:46**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Last week, we learned that the people welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem by waving big leaves *(show the palm branches)* and saying, “Hosanna, Hosanna!” Which means, “Hooray, the Savior is here!” We learned that Jesus shared a special meal with the disciples and reminded them of God’s plan to save His people.

After Jesus shared the special meal with His disciples, they went to a garden *(show the flowers)* to pray. Jesus told them to stay awake to pray, but it was nighttime. The disciples were getting sleepy, and they kept falling asleep. **Everyone, pretend to fall asleep.**

Jesus stayed awake to talk to God the Father in the garden. Jesus prayed and prayed **(everyone, make praying hands)** because He knew it was almost time for Him to die and He knew it would not be easy.

The leaders in Jerusalem did not love and trust Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. They gave Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, money *(show the coins)* so he would tell them where Jesus was. Judas led those people to the garden where Jesus was praying.

When they found Jesus, they wrapped the rope around His arms *(wrap the rope around your arms)* to take Him away. Jesus had the power to make them stop, but He chose to go with them. Jesus knew it was time to die on the cross for sin. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

The leaders hated Jesus. **God does not want you to hate anyone. Hating people is a sin.** They showed that they hated Jesus by hurting Him. They took a long piece of leather called a whip and hit Jesus with it on His back. They made a crown of thorns *(show the crown of thorns)* to put on Jesus’ head. They laughed at Jesus as they put it on His

Supplies: “Mr. Box” containing these items: palm branches, flowers, silver coins, rope, crown of thorns, cross, nails, bandage, God’s Big Story Timeline

head. Jesus had cuts and blood all over His body. *(Show the bandage and explain that a whole box of them would not fix the cuts on Jesus’ body.)* Then they made Jesus carry a big, heavy cross on His back up a hill. *(Show the cross.)*

They nailed *(show nail)* Jesus’ hands and feet to the cross. Jesus’ mom and some of His friends watched Him as He died. They were very sad.

📖 The Bible tells us what Jesus said before He died—*(Read Luke 23:46 from the Bible.)*

One of Jesus’ friends took Jesus’ body off of the cross and wrapped His body with cloth *(show the cloth)* and put Him in a tomb. **Everyone, cup your hands like a tomb.** A tomb was a big hole, like a cave, where they would put someone’s body when they died. They rolled a huge **(everyone, spread out your arms)** rock in front of Jesus’ tomb so no one could see or take Jesus’ body.

That’s not the end of the story. **Everyone, show three fingers.** Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

➔ The Bible tells us that the punishment for sin is separation from God and death. Everyone is born with hearts that are sick with sin. Because Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned, He took the punishment for sin when He died on the cross. God gives those who love and trust Jesus a healthy heart that is not separated from Him. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” with a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners.



Jesus Dies on the Cross



Tomb Is Sealed



Jesus Came to Save Sinners

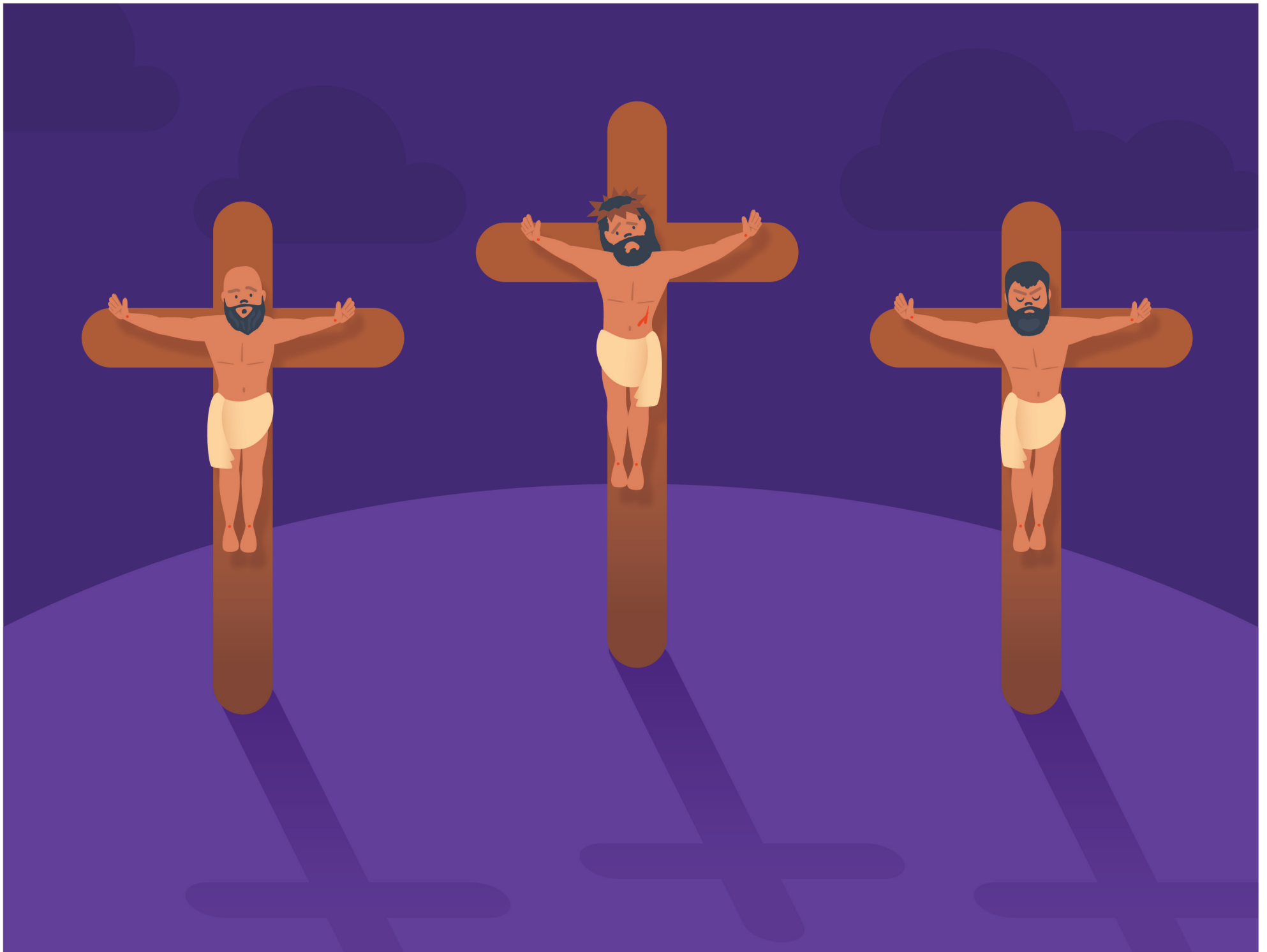
Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God’s Big Story. *Point to the “Jesus Died on the Cross” circle on the timeline.*
- ☐ Where did Jesus and His disciples go to pray? *(A garden)*
- ☐ Who stayed awake to talk to God the Father? *(Jesus)*
- ☐ Why did Jesus stay awake to pray? *(He knew He was about to die and it would be hard.)*
- ☐ How did Jesus talk to God the Father? *(He prayed.)*
- ☐ What did the people come to do to Jesus while He was praying? *(They took Him away to hurt Him and kill Him.)*
- ☐ What did they nail Jesus’ hands and feet to? *(A cross)*
- ☐ Why did Jesus let them do this? *(Jesus Came to Save Sinners!)*
- ☐ Where was Jesus buried after He died, and what was put in front of it? *(A tomb; a huge rock)*
- ☐ Did Jesus stay dead? *(No! He rose from the dead on the third day!)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*







JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Matthew 28

Jesus Comes Back to Life

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

KEY TEXT But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” **Matthew 28:5–6**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Last week, we learned that Jesus died on the cross for sin. Jesus was praying in the garden when Judas and the leaders of the city came to kill Him. They wrapped Jesus’ arms with rope (*wrap hands with rope*) and hit Jesus on His back with a whip to hurt Him. They put a crown of thorns (*show the crown of thorns*) on Jesus’ head and laughed at Him. They made Jesus carry a big, heavy cross on His back up a hill (*show the cross*). They nailed (*show the nails*) Jesus’ hands and feet to the cross so He would die. Jesus had the power to make them stop, but He chose to die on the cross to rescue God’s people from sin. (*Point to the “Jesus Died*

on the Cross” circle on the God’s Big Story Timeline.) **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

Today, we are going to learn about what happened after Jesus died on the cross for sin and was buried inside of a tomb. (*Point to the “Jesus Buried in the Tomb” circle on the God’s Big Story Timeline.)*

A huge (*spread out your arms*) rock was rolled in front of Jesus’ tomb so no one could see Jesus’ body. There were soldiers who stayed in front of Jesus’ tomb so no one could take Jesus’ body.

On the third day (*show three fingers*) after Jesus died, two women who were friends of Jesus came to visit the tomb. The ground shook (**everyone, pretend the ground is shaking**), and an angel rolled away the huge rock that was in front of Jesus’ tomb.

The women were scared (*make a scared face*) because the angel was as bright as lightning and had clothes that were as white as snow!

📖 The Bible tells us what the angel said to the women—(*Read Matthew 28:5–6 from the*

Supplies: “Mr. Box” containing these items: rope, crown of thorns, cross, nails, white cloth, God’s Big Story Timeline

Bible.) **Crucified means that Jesus died on a cross.**

The angel told them to look inside the tomb! Jesus was not there because He came back to life! Jesus died on the cross and three (*count 1–2–3*) days later, He came back to life! **Everyone, celebrate!**

The women ran to tell Jesus’ very good friends and followers, the disciples. As they were going, Jesus met them and said hello to them. They fell at Jesus’ feet because they had hearts that loved and trusted Him and were so excited to see Him!

✈ When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed everyone that He was the Savior whom God promised from the very beginning! (*Point to the “Promise of a Savior” circle on the God’s Big Story Timeline.)*

Let’s celebrate that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to

say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners,” in a tiny mouse voice. 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God’s Big Story. *(Point to the “Jesus is Risen” circle on the timeline.)*
- ☐ After Jesus died on the cross, where did they put His body? *(Inside of a tomb)*
- ☐ Who came to visit the tomb? *(Several women who were Jesus’ friends)*
- ☐ What happened when they got there? *(There was an earthquake, and an angel came down from heaven and rolled back the stone from Jesus’ tomb.)*
- ☐ Was Jesus inside of the tomb? *(No! Jesus is alive!)*
- ☐ Who did the women see when they ran to tell the disciples about the empty tomb? *(Jesus)*
- ☐ What did the women do when they saw Jesus? *(They fell at His feet.)*
- ☐ Why did the women do this? *(They were so excited to see Jesus because they loved and trusted Him!)*
- ☐ Was Jesus the promised Savior? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*



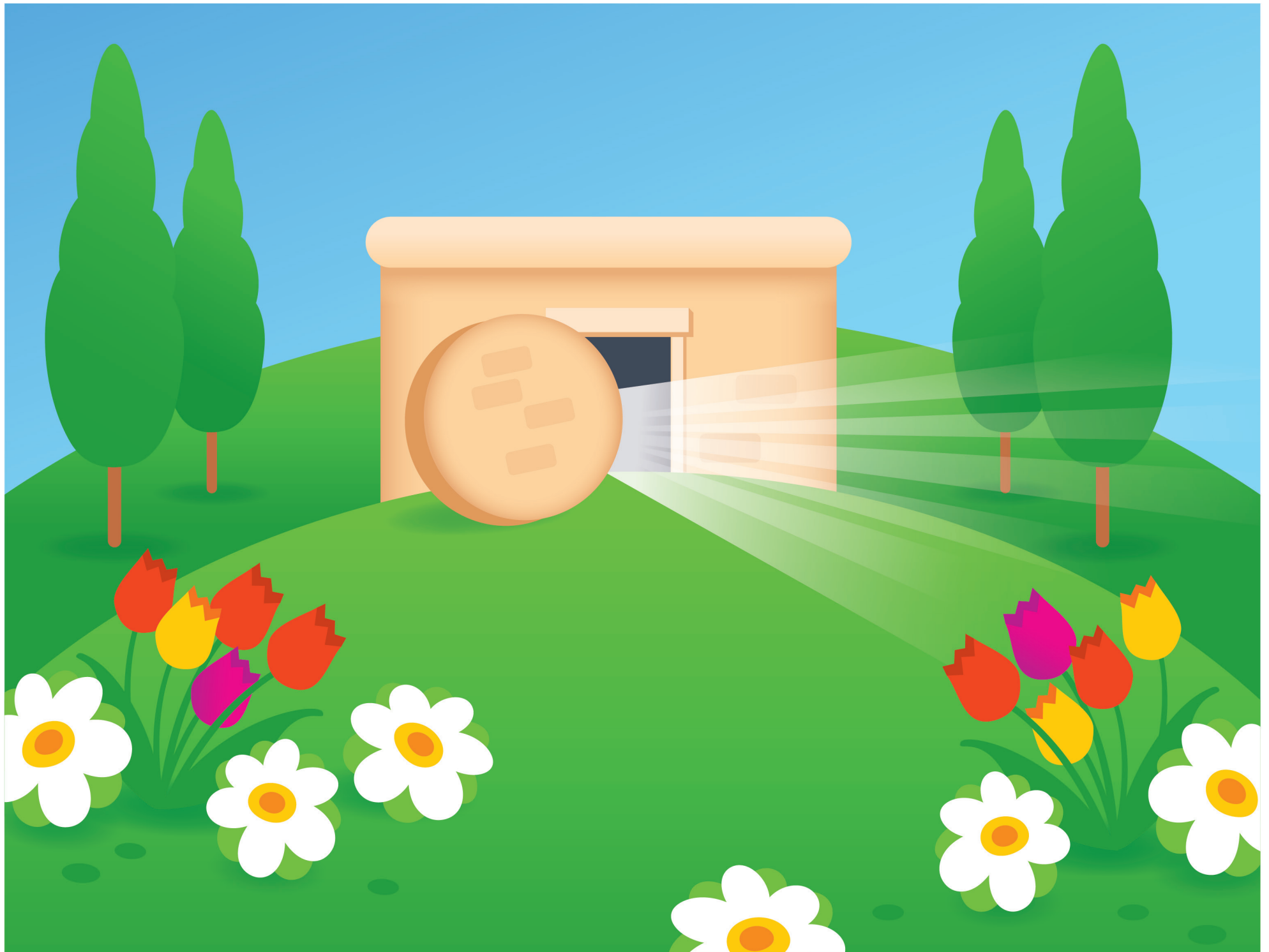
Tomb Is Empty



Jesus Appears to the Disciples



Jesus Came to Save Sinners







JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Matthew 28:5–6

Easter Review

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

KEY TEXT But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” **Matthew 28:5–6**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. It is from God and about God.**

What did we celebrate last Sunday? That’s right, Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead! Today, we are going to hear the whole story of Easter and celebrate that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on the back of a young donkey *(show the photograph of the donkey).*

A huge crowd with lots and lots of people came to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem. They laid their coats down on the ground and waved their palm branches and

said, “Hosanna, Hosanna” which means, “Hooray, the Savior is here!” **Everyone say, “Hosanna, Hosanna,” and wave pretend palm branches.**

Four days later, Jesus and His disciples shared a very special meal together. *(Show picture of Jesus eating with the disciples.)* This was the last meal they ate together before Jesus died on the cross. At the meal, Jesus gave the disciples a cup of wine and some bread and told them, “Eat and drink to remember Me.” They were to remember that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.**

After the special meal, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden *(show the flowers)* to pray. Jesus told them to stay awake to pray, but it was nighttime. The disciples were getting sleepy, and they kept falling asleep. **Everyone, pretend to fall asleep.**

Jesus stayed awake to talk to God the Father in the garden. Jesus prayed and prayed *(make praying hands)* because He knew it was almost time for Him to die and He knew it would not be easy.

The leaders in Jerusalem did not love and

Supplies: “Mr. Box” containing these items: donkey photo, palm branch, picture of Jesus eating with the disciples, flowers, coins, rope, crown of thorns, bandage, cross, nail, white cloth, God’s Big Story Timeline

trust Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. They gave Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples, money *(show the coins)* so he would tell them where Jesus was. Judas led those people to the garden where Jesus was praying.

When they found Jesus, they wrapped the rope around His arms *(wrap the rope around your arms)* to take Him away. Jesus had the power to make them stop, but He chose to go with them. Jesus knew it was time to die on the cross for sin. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

The leaders hated Jesus. **God does not want you to hate anyone. Hating people is a sin.** They showed that they hated Jesus by hurting Him. They took a long piece of leather called a whip and hit Jesus with it on His back. They made a crown of thorns *(show the crown of thorns)* and laughed at Jesus as they put it on His head. Jesus had cuts and blood all over His body. *(Show the bandage and explain that a whole box of them would not fix the cuts on Jesus’ body.)*

Then they made Jesus carry a big, heavy cross on His back up a hill. *(Show the cross.)* They nailed *(show nail)* Jesus’ hands and feet


to the cross. Jesus breathed His last breath *(take a deep breath)* and died on the cross to save sinners.

One of Jesus' friends took Jesus' body off of the cross and wrapped His body with cloth *(show the cloth)* and put Him in a tomb.

Everyone, cup your hands like a tomb.

They rolled a huge rock in front of Jesus' tomb, and soldiers stood outside so no one would take Jesus' body.

On the third day *(show three fingers)* after Jesus died, two women who were friends of Jesus came to visit the tomb. The ground shook **(everyone, pretend the ground is shaking)**, and an angel rolled away the huge rock that was in front of Jesus' tomb. The women were scared *(make a scared face)* because the angel was as bright as lightning and had clothes that were as white as snow!

 The Bible tells us what the angel said to the women: *(Read Matthew 28:5-6 from the Bible)*. **Crucified means that Jesus died on a cross.** The angel told them to look inside the tomb! Jesus was not there because He came back to life! Jesus died on the cross and three days later, He came back to life!

Everyone, celebrate!

The women ran to tell Jesus' very good friends and followers, the disciples. As they were going, Jesus met them and said hello to them. They fell at Jesus' feet because they had hearts that loved and trusted Him and they were so excited to see Him!

✈ When Jesus rose from the dead, He showed everyone that He was the Savior whom God promised from the very beginning *(Point to the "Promise of a Savior" circle on the God's Big Story Timeline)*!

Let's celebrate that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners! On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, turn to the person next to you and say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.**

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners!

Review Questions

- ☐ What did the people do to welcome Jesus to Jerusalem? *(They waved palm branches in the air, put their coats on the ground and said "Hosanna.")*
- ☐ Where did the leaders of Jerusalem find Jesus praying? *(In a garden)*
- ☐ What did they nail Jesus hands and feet to? *(A cross)*
- ☐ Did Jesus have the power to make them stop? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Why did Jesus die on the cross? *(Because Jesus Came to Save Sinners)*
- ☐ Did Jesus stay dead? *(No! He rose from the dead on the third day.)*
- ☐ Why do we celebrate Easter? *(Jesus Came to Save Sinners and He is alive!)*



Entering
Jerusalem



The Last
Supper



Jesus Dies on
the Cross



Tomb Is Sealed



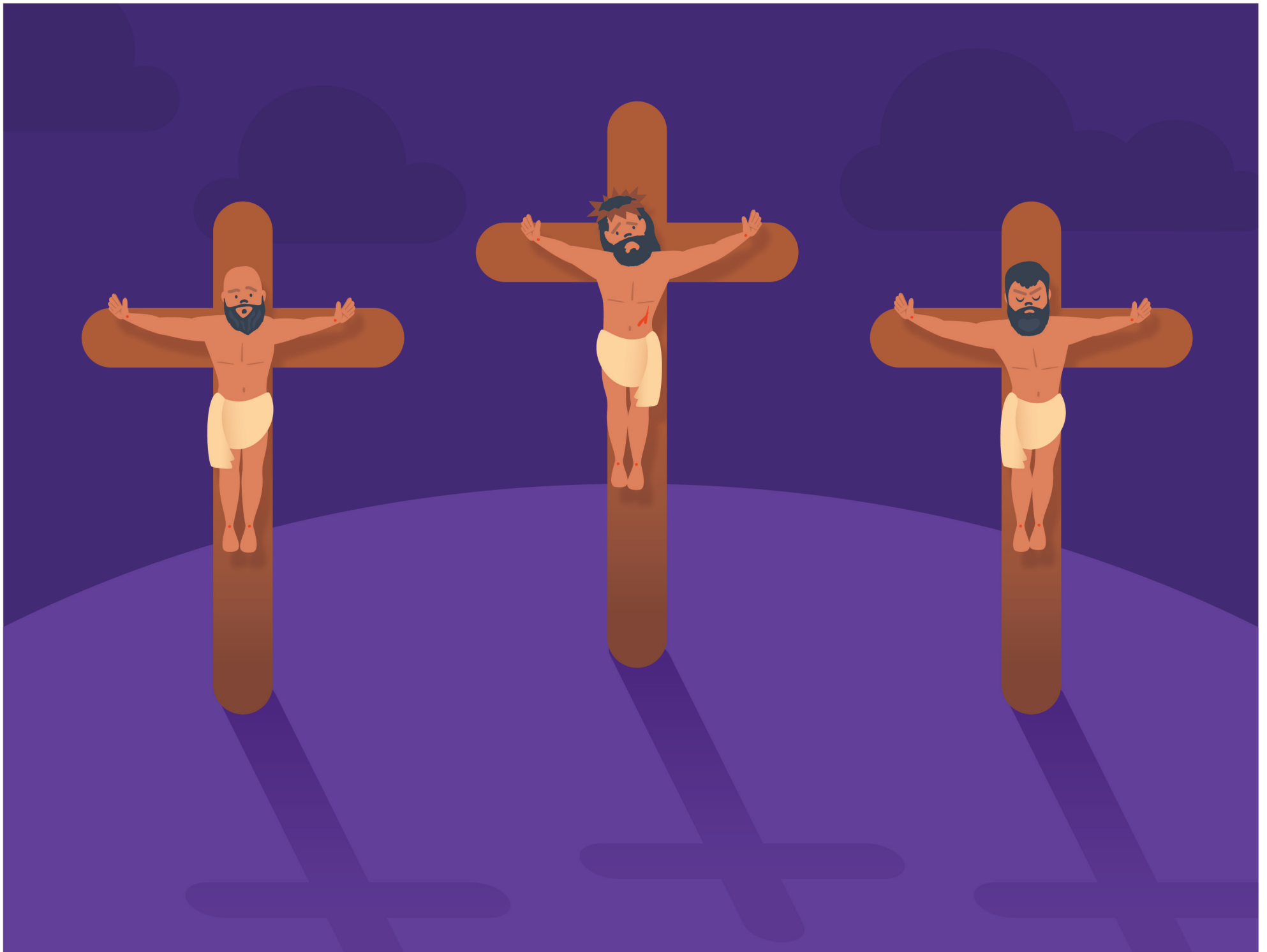
Tomb Is Empty



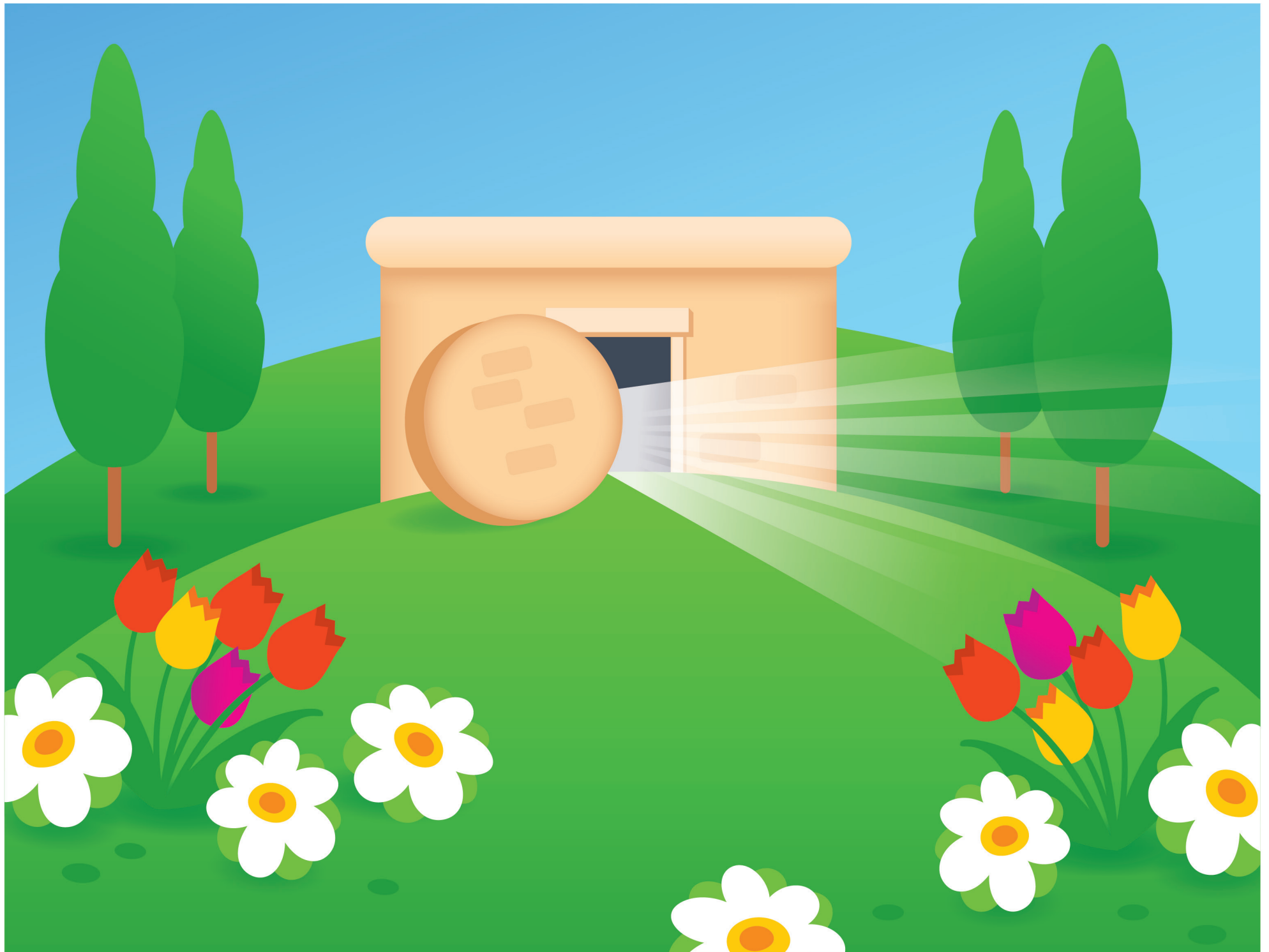
Jesus Came to
Save Sinners













JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



John 21:1–17

Jesus Eats With His Disciples

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

Supplies: net, fish, Bible, picture of Jesus eating with the disciples

KEY TEXT That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”
John 21:7a

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

In the Bible, we have been learning about how Jesus died on the cross to save sinners. But did He stay dead? No! Jesus came back to life after **1–2–3** days! After Jesus came back to life, He spent time with the disciples and other people.

One night, several of the disciples decided to go fishing in a big boat. They still did not understand that Jesus had come back to life. That night, they tried to catch fish all night long and they could not catch one fish! *(Show the fish.)*

When the sun started rising, they heard a man calling from the shore *(hold your hand to your ear like you are listening)*. He said,

“Did you catch any fish?” and the disciples answered, “No!” Then the man said, “Put the net on the other side of the boat, and you will find some!”

So, the disciples threw the net into the water on the other side of the boat *(toss the net open onto the floor like you’re fishing from a boat)*. When they did this, they caught so many fish in the net that their boat began to sink! That’s a lot of fish!

📖 *(Read John 21:7a from the Bible.)* The disciples now knew the man on the shore was Jesus! Only Jesus could do a miracle like this. He really had come back to life!

One of the disciples, Peter, was on the boat. **On the count of three, let’s all say, “Peter!” 1–2–3! Peter!** Peter was so excited to see Jesus that he jumped into the water and swam to meet Him *(pretend to jump in the water and swim)*.

Jesus made breakfast and talked with His very good friends. *(Show picture of Jesus eating with the disciples.)* He had something very important to tell the disciples before he went back to heaven. Jesus told Peter that

because he loved and trusted Jesus, then Peter would also love other people and tell them all about Jesus! Jesus wanted to talk with the disciples just like **God Wants to Talk With Us!** Jesus knew He would be leaving soon, so He took the time to prepare His disciples for what they would do when He was gone.

✈ **God Wants to Talk With Us!** Jesus talked with the disciples because He loved them and had a relationship with them. God uses the Bible to talk to us and tell us all about Himself *(show the Bible)*. And we can talk to God through prayer *(make praying hands)*. Praying is easy—it’s just like talking to a friend! Anytime we pray, God is always listening. **God Wants to Talk With Us**, and we can talk with God!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Wants to Talk With Us.” 1–2–3. God Wants to Talk With Us. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Wants to Talk With Us,” as we pretend to reel in a fish on a fishing pole. 1–2–3. God Wants to Talk With Us. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Wants to Talk With Us!”

If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God that He wants to talk with us!

Review Questions

- ☐ Who were the disciples? *(Jesus' very good friends)*
- ☐ What did the disciples go do one night? *(They went fishing.)*
- ☐ Did the disciples catch any fish that night? *(No, not one fish)*
- ☐ Who called to them from the shore and told them to throw the net on the other side of the boat? *(Jesus)*
- ☐ Did they catch any fish now? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ What did Peter do when he realized the man on the shore was Jesus? *(He jumped in the water and swam to Jesus.)*
- ☐ Jesus spent time eating with the disciples and talking to them. God Wants to Talk With Us! What did Jesus ask Peter to do? *(Love others and tell them about Jesus)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"God Wants to Talk With Us!"*

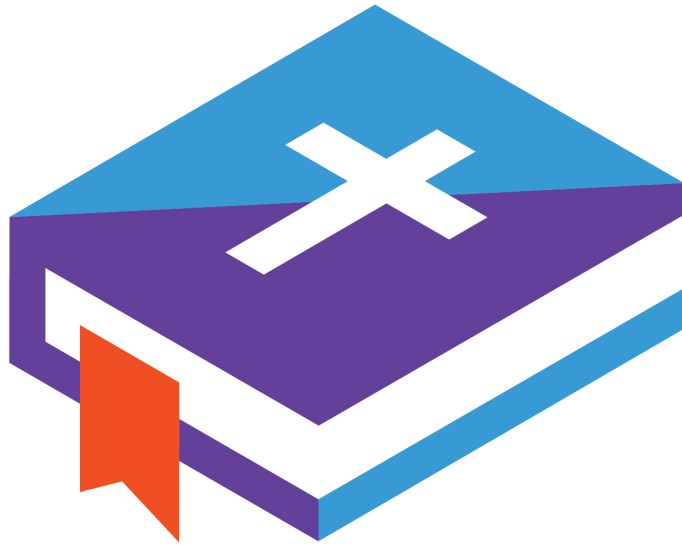


**Jesus Eats
Breakfast With
the Disciples**



**God Wants to
Talk With Us**





GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1:1–11

Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

KEY TEXT And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **Acts 1:9**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Last week, we learned about what Jesus did after He rose from the dead. Jesus ate breakfast with the disciples, His very good friends. Jesus knew He would be leaving soon, so He took the time to prepare His disciples for what they would do when He was gone.

Today, we are going to learn about the special job that Jesus gave to His disciples.

The time was coming for Jesus to go back to heaven. He had finished His work, and now He was going to give His disciples a very special job.

Jesus met His disciples on a mountain and said their job was to go everywhere and tell everyone that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** They were to go everywhere—not just to their house or to their street, but everywhere because God loves the whole world *(show the globe)*. They were to tell everyone because everyone is born with a heart that is sick with sin *(point to the Sick Heart poster)*. Everyone needs to hear the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

As they told others this good news, they were to teach them all of what Jesus said to do. The disciples couldn't do this by themselves though. They needed God's help. So before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised to send a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

The Helper would be with them so they could obey Jesus' command to go everywhere and tell everyone that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

📖 The Bible tells us how Jesus went back to heaven—*(Read Acts 1:9 from the Bible.)*

Supplies: pictures of Jesus with His disciples and Jesus going back to heaven, a globe, Sick Heart and Healthy Heart posters

➔ Jesus will come back again one day, but until then everyone who loves and trusts Jesus has the same special job. Go everywhere and tell everyone the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** As people hear this good news, God will change sick hearts to healthy hearts *(show the Healthy Heart poster)*.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," with a big, deep voice. 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1–2–3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay. Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.*

Review Questions

- ☐ Where was Jesus about to go? *(Back to heaven)*
- ☐ Who would come to be with the disciples after Jesus went to heaven? *(The Helper, the Holy Spirit)*
- ☐ Where were the disciples to go to tell people that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**? *(Everywhere, all over the world)*
- ☐ How did Jesus go back to heaven? *(On a cloud)*
- ☐ Why does everyone need to hear this good news? *(Everyone is born with hearts that are sick with sin.)*
- ☐ Who can we tell that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**? *(Everyone: friends, family members, neighbors, classmates, etc.)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together:
"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"



Jesus Goes
Back to Heaven



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners





JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



John 21:1–17, Matthew 28:16–20, Acts 1:1–11

Jesus Eats with His Disciples and Goes Back to Heaven

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: net, fish, pictures of Jesus with His disciples, picture of Jesus going back to heaven, a globe, sick heart & healthy heart poster

KEY TEXT And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **Acts 1:9**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about how Jesus died on the cross to save sinners. But did He stay dead? **No!** Jesus came back to life after **1–2–3** days! After Jesus came back to life, He spent time with His disciples.

One night, many of the disciples went fishing. They tried to catch fish all night long and did not catch one fish! *(Show the fish.)* When the sun started rising, they heard a man calling from the shore *(hold your hand to your ear like you're listening)*. He said "Did you catch any fish?" The disciples answered, "No!" Then the man said, "Put the net on the other side of the boat, and you will find some!"

So, the disciples threw the net into the water on the other side of the boat *(toss the net open onto the floor like you're fishing from a boat)*. When they did this, they caught so many fish in the net that their boat began to sink!

Who do you think the man on the shore was? It was Jesus! The disciples knew the man on the shore was Jesus. The disciple Peter was so excited to see Him that he jumped into the water and swam to meet Him. When all of the disciples got to shore, Jesus had made breakfast and wanted to sit and talk with them because they were His very good friends.

A few weeks later, Jesus met His disciples again. This time they were on a mountain. Jesus was about to go back to heaven. First, He told the disciples that their job was to go everywhere and tell everyone that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**. They were to go everywhere and tell everyone because everyone is born with a heart that is sick with sin *(point to the sick heart poster)*. Everyone needs to hear the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**.

The disciples couldn't do this by themselves though. They needed God's help. So, before

Jesus went back to heaven, He promised to send a helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help them to obey Jesus's command to go everywhere and tell everyone the good news!

📖 The Bible tells us how Jesus went back to heaven. *(Read Acts 1:9 from the Bible.)*

✈️ Jesus will come back again one day, but until then, everyone who loves and trusts Jesus has the same special job: go everywhere and tell everyone that Jesus Came to Save Sinners! As people hear this good news, God can change their sick hearts to healthy hearts *(show the healthy heart poster)*.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners," with a big, deep voice. 1–2–3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears.

1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners!
Everyone, sit down.

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who were the disciples? *(Jesus's very good friends)*
 - ☐ Who called to the disciples from the shore and told them to throw their net on the other side of the boat? *(Jesus)*
 - ☐ Where did Jesus go at the end of the story? *(Back to heaven)*
 - ☐ Before He went to heaven, what did He tell the disciples to do? *(Tell everyone, everywhere that Jesus Came to Save Sinners)*
- ☐ Why does everyone need to hear this good news? *(Everyone is born with a heart that is sick with sin.)*
 - ☐ Who can we tell that Jesus Came to Save Sinners? *(Everyone, everywhere: friends, neighbors, classmates, family, etc.)*
 - ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"*



Jesus Eats
Breakfast With
the Disciples



Jesus Goes
Back to Heaven



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners







JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:34

God Is in Heaven

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: picture of King Jesus on the throne, God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT Our God is in the heavens...
Psalm 115:3a

Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God... **Romans 8:34**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

📖 Last week, we learned that Jesus ascended to heaven. That means Jesus went back to heaven to be with God the Father. *(Read Psalm 115:3 from the Bible.)* **On the count of three, say, "God is in heaven!" 1—2—3! God is in heaven!** Jesus went to heaven because His work on earth was finished.

Jesus did what He came here to do. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for sin, and rose three days later. The Bible tells us that Jesus is in heaven right now. Jesus is sitting down at the right hand of the Father.

📖 *Read Romans 8:34 from the Bible.*

He is sitting down because His work is finished. And He's on a throne because He is King! *(Show the picture of Jesus sitting on the throne.)*

Jesus is sitting on His throne and He is waiting. Remember, last week we learned that Jesus told His disciples, His friends and followers, to go over the whole world telling people about Him.

God Is Good and He wants people everywhere to know about Him. He wants people to know that Jesus came to save people and give healthy hearts to all who love and trust Him.

Jesus is waiting while His followers obey Him. *(Point to the second clock on the God's Big Story Timeline.)*

Jesus is waiting until everyone who needs to hear about Him has heard. **God Is Good**, and He is patient. And one day, at the exact right time, the Father is going to send Jesus back for His followers.

Jesus will come back for His people, and everyone who loves and trusts Him will get to be with God forever! **God Is Good!**

➔ Being with God is what is best, and He has promised that all who love and trust Jesus will be with Him forever. **God Is Good.** Right now, Jesus is in heaven waiting while His followers tell others about Him and that He is good!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "God Is Good." 1—2—3. God Is Good. On the count of three, turn to the person next to you and say, "God Is Good." 1—2—3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "God Is Good!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God's Big Story.
(Point to the second clock on the timeline.)
- ☐ Where are Jesus and God the Father?
(In heaven)
- ☐ Why is Jesus sitting down in heaven? *(His work is finished.)*
- ☐ Why is Jesus sitting on a throne? *(He is the King!)*
- ☐ What is Jesus waiting for His followers to do? *(Go around the world telling people about Him)*
- ☐ Why do God's people want to go to heaven?
(God Is Good, and being with Him is best!)
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together:
"God Is Good!"



Reigning at the
Right Hand of
the Majestic
God in Heaven



God Is Good





GOD IS
GOOD



Acts 2

God Sends a Helper

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

KEY TEXT And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "...how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?"

Acts 2:7–8

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

Last week, we learned that Jesus went back to heaven and is sitting at the right hand of God the Father. Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples, His friends and followers, that they should go all over the world to tell people all about Jesus and what He taught them. All people need to know that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**. God made all people in His likeness (**imago dei**), and He wants all people to love and trust Jesus.

But Jesus told His disciples that someone would come to them to help them first, and they needed to wait for Him. The Holy Spirit, who is God, was going to come help them.

On the count of three, say, "Holy Spirit!"

1–2–3! Holy Spirit! Just like Jesus is God and the Father is God, the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is called the Helper. He helps God's children talk with God and understand the Bible, and the Holy Spirit was going to come to help Jesus' disciples obey God and tell everyone all about Jesus! **God Is Good**, and He was coming to help His people.

The disciples obeyed Jesus and were waiting for the Helper to come to them. On a day called Pentecost, The Holy Spirit came into the house where Jesus' followers were waiting. **On the count of three, say, "Pentecost!" 1–2–3! Pentecost!** When The Holy Spirit came, the house was filled with a sound like a mighty wind. **Everyone, make a wind sound.**

Then fire appeared above them in the house, but it didn't hurt them! The Helper came to them in a special way and did special things. *(Show the picture of the people with the glow above their heads.)* The Holy Spirit came to help everyone who loves and trusts Jesus and started helping Jesus' followers right away!

Supplies: Pentecost track on iPod, two pictures of Jesus' followers, God's Big Story Timeline

Raise your hand if you have heard someone speak in another language. The people started speaking in lots of languages that they didn't know before! It may have sounded something like this, *(play the Pentecost track on the iPod)* and looked something like this. *(Show the picture of the people speaking different languages.)*

📖 People in the town heard them talking and recognized the languages. *(Read Acts 2:7–8 from the Bible.)* They were amazed that the disciples were speaking a whole lot of different languages! **Show me your amazed face.**

The Helper came, and the disciples were able to tell other people about Jesus in many languages! Remember, Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Helper and then to go all over the world telling people that **God Is Good**. Jesus' followers started telling about God as soon as the Helper came!

➔ **God Is Good!** Jesus came to heal hearts that are sick with sin and give healthy hearts to all who love and trust Him. And the Holy Spirit comes to help Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit helps them know they are sinners,

pray, understand the Bible and share the truth about God with others! **God Is Good!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is Good.” 1—2—3. God Is Good. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is Good,” with a deep voice. 1—2—3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God’s Big Story. *(Point to the second clock on the timeline.)*
- ☐ When Jesus said goodbye to the disciples, where did He go? *(Back to heaven with God the Father)*
- ☐ Who came to be with the disciples after Jesus went back to heaven? *(The Holy Spirit)*
- ☐ What does the Holy Spirit do for God’s people? *(The Holy Spirit is the Helper, helping us to talk with God, understand the Bible, know that we are sinners, and share the truth about God with others.)*
- ☐ What was the day called when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples? *(Pentecost)*
- ☐ When the Helper came to the people, what did it sound like and what appeared? *(A big wind; fire that didn’t burn them up)*
- ☐ What amazing thing could the disciples do when the Helper came? *(They could speak in languages that they did not even know.)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: **“God Is Good!”**



The Holy Spirit Comes



Uttering Different Languages



God Is Good







GOD IS
GOOD



Acts 2

The Holy Spirit Helps Peter

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

Supplies: picture of Peter teaching the crowd, God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. **Acts 2:41**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

In the Bible, we have been learning that the Holy Spirit, who is God, came to help everyone who loves and trusts Jesus on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is the Helper of God's people, and helping the disciples speak in different languages that they didn't know and tell others about Jesus!

People in the town heard the disciples speaking in these languages, and they were amazed! **Show me your amazed face.** Some people were confused, and others laughed at the disciples and made fun of them!

A man named Peter stood up in front of the crowd. **On the count of three, say, "Peter!"**

1—2—3! Peter! Peter was one of Jesus' disciples. He loved and trusted Jesus, and he told the people what had happened to the disciples. *(Show the picture of Peter teaching the crowd.)*

Peter told the crowd that the Holy Spirit had come to help them and they could speak in a lot of languages. God, the Holy Spirit, had come to help them and be with them. **God Is in Charge of Everything**, and He came to help His people!

Peter was brave because of the Helper, and he told all the people about Jesus. He told them that Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth just like God had promised. He told them about Jesus' life, His death, and that He was raised from the dead after *(count on your fingers)* **1—2—3** days!

Peter did exactly what Jesus had told His disciples to do when He went back to heaven. Remember, Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Helper and then tell people everywhere about Jesus! Peter was doing that!

A lot of the people listened to Peter and believed what he was saying! **God Is in**

Charge of Everything, and He helped the people believe the truth that day!

Before Peter spoke to the crowd, there was just a small number of people who believed the truth about Jesus, but after Peter taught, lots and lots and lots of people believed.

📖 *(Read Acts 2:41 from the Bible.)* The Bible tells us that about 3,000 people learned about Jesus and believed. That's awesome! **Everyone, cheer and give your neighbor a high five!**

➔ **God Is in Charge of Everything!** God was in charge of Peter and He was in charge of the people who heard Peter. All of the good things that happened that day came from God! It was an amazing day! The Holy Spirit made Peter brave. He helped Peter obey Jesus and helped the people believe. **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

✝ Peter told others about Jesus, and we can, too! **Let's say the Gospel Fingerplay together!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "God Is in Charge of Everything."

1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything.
On the count of three, we are going to stand up and say, “God Is in Charge of Everything,” with a very slow voice.
1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything.
On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is in Charge of Everything!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything.

Review Questions

- ☐ This is where we are in God’s Big Story.
(Point to the second clock on the timeline.)
- ☐ On what day did the Holy Spirit come and fill the people who loved and trusted Jesus?
(Pentecost)
- ☐ What did the people in town hear the disciples doing? *(Speaking in languages that the disciples didn’t know)*
- ☐ Who told the people that what they were hearing was the work of God who helps His people? *(Peter)*
- ☐ Who helped the people believe what Peter was teaching? *(The Holy Spirit)*
- ☐ How many people loved and trusted Jesus that day? *(3,000)*
- ☐ Who was in charge of every good thing that happened on the day of Pentecost? *(God! God Is in Charge of Everything!)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together:
“God Is in Charge of Everything!”



**Peter Tells
Others
About Jesus**



**God Is in Charge
of Everything**





**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**



Acts 2

The Church Begins

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY

Supplies: pictures of people in the Worship Center and people reading the Bible, illustrations of people sharing a meal and harvesting, God's Big Story Timeline

KEY TEXT And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. **Acts 2:46–47**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

The last couple weeks we've learned what happened to Jesus' disciples, His friends and followers, after Jesus went back to heaven. He didn't leave them all alone! The Holy Spirit came to help them. Then Peter taught a whole lot of people about Jesus, and they believed!

The Holy Spirit helped the people believe and God added them to His Church. **The Church Is God's Family!** Every person who loves and trusts Jesus is part of the Church. **On the count of three, say, "Church!" 1—2—3! Church!**

The Church is a group of people who love and trust Jesus and spend time together learning about, worshiping, and telling others about Jesus. All of God's children are a part of His Church. (Show a picture of the Worship Center.)

📖 The Bible tells us that the Church gathered together at the temple every day. *(Read Acts 2:46a from the Bible.)* They gathered to learn about and worship God. God Is Good! He gave His people a place to learn about Him and worship Him together. *(Show the picture of people reading the Bible.)*

📖 The Church also gathered together in homes. *(Show the picture of the meal.)* They spent time together, ate dinner together, thanked God for giving them food, and they worshiped God. **Worship is telling and showing God that you love Him. (Read Acts 2:46b from the Bible.)**

The Church helped each other, too! *Show the picture of the harvest.* If anyone needed help, the Church would help them. **The Church Is God's Family!** He takes care of His people, and He uses the Church to take care of His people.

📖 The Church obeyed Jesus' command and told other people about Him with the help of the Holy Spirit. A lot of the people they told about Jesus and how He came to save sinners believed! The Bible tells us that new people believed every day. *(Read Acts 2:47b from the Bible.)*

God saved more and more people, and those people became part of the Church. They loved and trusted Jesus and spent time together learning about, worshiping, and telling others about Jesus.

➔ *(Point to the second "God's people wait" clock on the God's Big Story Timeline and explain that's where the Church is waiting right now!)* The members of the early Church and the Church today are waiting for Jesus to come again and telling more and more people the good news about Jesus. **The Church Is God's Family!** The Church knows that God is best and wants others to know that, too!

✝ **Let's say the Gospel Fingerplay together.**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "The Church Is God's Family." 1—2—3. God Is Good. On the count of three,

we are going to sing, “God Is Good.” 1—2—3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ Who helps people love and trust Jesus? *(The Holy Spirit)*
- ☐ Who is the group of people who love and trust Jesus and spend time together learning about, worshiping, and telling others about Jesus? *(The Church)*
- ☐ Who made the Church? *(God)*
- ☐ Who is part of the Church? *(Everyone who loves and trusts Jesus)*
- ☐ What is worship? *(Worship is telling and showing God that you love Him. We worship by singing to, talking to, and obeying God.)*
- ☐ What should the Church do today? *(The same things the early Church did! They learned about and worshiped God together, helped each other, and told others about Jesus.)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *(“God Is Good!”)*



Gathering at the Temple



Gathering in Homes



Serving and Helping One Another



Gathering at Church Today



Gathering in Homes Today



God Is Good













**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



Acts 12:1–19

God Rescues Peter from Prison

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

Supplies: a metal chain

KEY TEXT And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, ‘Get up quickly.’ And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

Acts 12:7-8

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We learned that, after the Holy Spirit helped Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, tell a big crowd in Jerusalem the good news about Jesus, about 3,000 people believed. God gave them new hearts that loved and trusted Jesus, and they became a part of God’s family, the Church!

The Church worshiped God together in the temple and at each other’s homes. They

prayed together and ate together, helped one another, and they obeyed Jesus’ command to go and tell everyone all over the world the good news about Him. God was bringing more people into His family, the Church, every day!

But, not everyone in Jerusalem was happy about how big the Church was growing. Many of the leaders of the city did not love or trust Jesus or believe that what the disciples were saying about Jesus was true. That’s what we’re going to talk about today!

Today, we’re going to talk about how even though people are in charge of some things, **God Is in Charge of Everything.** We’re going to learn how God rescued Peter, one of Jesus’ closest friends and followers, from prison.

Raise your hand if you have ever heard the word “prison.” What is a prison? Prison is a place someone is held as punishment when they commit a crime. Peter spent lots of time in Jerusalem teaching people about Jesus, how He was the promised Savior and King who is in charge of everything, but Peter

didn’t commit any crimes. A man named Herod, the king of Jerusalem, did not like what Peter was saying about Jesus, so he had Peter thrown in prison. **On the count of three, say “Herod!” 1–2–3! Herod!**


Herod wanted to be in charge of everything, not Jesus, and like many of the Jews, he did not believe that what they were saying about Jesus was true. Herod had the power to hurt Jesus’ disciples, so he did. Herod had John, another one of Jesus’ disciples, thrown in prison for telling others about Jesus. He even had John killed.

When Herod saw that it made the other leaders of the city happy when he hurt Jesus’ followers, he had Peter arrested and thrown in prison too. He put guards all around Peter and wrapped him in chains. *(Wrap your wrists with the chain.)* Herod thought he was in charge and could do whatever he wanted to stop God’s family, the Church, from growing, but he was wrong.

God Is in Charge of Everything, not Herod. When the Church heard what had happened to Peter, they prayed. **Can you put your hands together like you’re praying and**

squeeze really tight? They prayed and prayed that their friend Peter would be safe, and guess what? God heard their prayers.

The night before Herod was going to have Peter killed, God sent Peter **an angel, a mighty messenger and warrior from God!** The angel appeared in a bright light right next to Peter, but he was fast asleep between two guards in his cell. **Everyone, pretend to be asleep.**

 Let's read from the Bible what the angel did next. *(Read Acts 12:7 from the Bible.)*

When the angel told Peter to get up, immediately, the chains fell off *(drop the chains)*, and Peter followed the angel just like he said. Peter put on his sandals, wrapped his cloak around himself, and followed the angel out of his cell. *(Take a few unsure steps at a time as you teach.)* They walked past the guards inside, past the guards outside, and right out of the prison gate which just opened up for them into the streets of the city.

It was all so strange and amazing, Peter thought he was dreaming. Then, the angel

left and Peter realized that he wasn't dreaming at all. God really had just rescued him from prison without anyone knowing. **It was a miracle, something amazing that doesn't normally happen that shows God's power,** to show that **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

Peter was so surprised and happy, he went to go tell the other disciples he was safe right away but, at first, they didn't believe it either. When they heard it was Peter at the door, they didn't even open it, but God really had answered their prayers. God rescued Peter from prison and from Herod's evil plans because **God Is in Charge of Everything!**

➔ **God Is in Charge of Everything,** not Herod or anyone else God puts in charge. Jesus is the king over all He has made—which is everything—and He had other plans for Peter. Jesus still wanted Peter and the rest of the disciples to go and tell everyone all over the world the good news about Jesus, so that's exactly what they continued to do.

God wants everyone to hear the good news about Jesus because we are all born with hearts that are sick with sin and sin

separates us from God forever, which is the worst thing ever. But, God sent His Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life, and Jesus never sinned. Jesus died on the cross for our sin and came back to life so that everyone who loves and trusts Him can have a new healthy heart and be with God forever, which is the best thing ever. God is in charge of our hearts, world, and leaders. **God Is in Charge of Everything** and nothing can stop Him from making all things new.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is in Charge of Everything.” 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. On the count of three, we are going to stand up and say, “God Is in Charge of Everything,” with a very slow voice. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is in Charge of Everything!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who was the man in charge of Jerusalem who was angry about what the disciples were saying about Jesus? (*Herod*)
- ☐ Were some other leaders happy about Herod hurting Jesus' followers? (*Yes*)
- ☐ Who did Herod have arrested and thrown in prison? (*Peter*)
- ☐ When the Church heard that Peter was in prison, what did they do? (*Prayed*)
- ☐ What did the guard put around Peter's wrists? (*Chains*)
- ☐ Who did God send to rescue Peter? (*An angel*)
- ☐ What happened when the angel told Peter to get up? (*His chains fell off.*)
- ☐ Did God really rescue Peter from prison or was it just a dream? (*It was real!*)
- ☐ When Peter was free, who did he tell the good news to? (*The other disciples*)
- ☐ Did God answer their prayers and rescue Peter? (*Yes! God Is in Charge of Everything!*)



Peter in Prison



God Sends
and Angel to
Rescue Peter



Peter Tells
the Disciples
He is Safe



God Is in
Charge of
Everything









**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**



Acts 8:4–25

The Holy Spirit is Given in Samaria

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

Supplies: a magician's cape,
a wrapped gift, gold coins

KEY TEXT Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **Acts 8:18–19**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We learned what happened to Jesus' friends and followers, the disciples, after Jesus went back to heaven, how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with His disciples and help them. The Holy Spirit helped Peter, one of Jesus' closest friends and followers, tell many people the good news about Jesus, and in one day, God gave 3,000 people new hearts that loved and trusted Jesus too. That's a lot of people! Immediately, they received the Holy Spirit and became a part of God's family, the Church.

Today, we're going to talk about how the Church got even bigger and how the good news about Jesus spread when another disciple named Philip went to Samaria. **On the count of three, say "Philip!" 1–2–3! Philip!** Philip was a follower of Jesus who wanted others to love and trust Jesus too so Philip left Jerusalem and went to Samaria to tell the people there about Jesus. **On the count of three, say "Samaria!" 1–2–3! Samaria!**

Raise your hand if you can tell me anything we have learned about Samaria.

Did God's special, chosen people, the Israelites, like the Samaritans? No! Many Israelites thought they were better than Samaritans because they worshiped God in the temple, unlike the Samaritans, so when Israelites needed to travel past Samaria, they would walk all the way around even though it took longer just so they wouldn't have to talk to any Samaritans or be around them. Is that how God wants us to treat people? No!

But Jesus was different and so was His disciple, Philip. Philip walked straight into Samaria and told the people there about

Jesus. He told them that Jesus was the Savior they had all been waiting for, and guess what? Many, many Samaritans believed! The Holy Spirit even used Philip to heal many people who were sick or couldn't walk just like Jesus did, and the people of Samaria were amazed. Miracles like these didn't normally happen.

But this was not the first time the people of Samaria had been amazed by things that didn't normally happen because in Samaria, there was also a magician named Simon. **On the count of three, say "Simon!" 1–2–3! Simon!** *(Don the magician's cape, spinning it with a flourish.)*

Simon did not love or trust Jesus. He loved money and being called great and powerful by others by doing magic. The Bible doesn't say exactly what kind of magic Simon was doing, but we know he was tricking the Samaritans into believing that he, Simon, was as great and powerful as God.

Do you think Simon, a man, was as great and powerful as God? No! Only **God Is in Charge of Everything**, including Simon, so the amazing things the Holy Spirit was doing to

heal peoples' bodies were WAY greater than any of Simon's cheap magic tricks. The Bible says that Simon was so amazed by God's power, he believed what Philip was saying about Jesus and wanted to be a follower of Jesus too. Woah!

God gave many people in Samaria new hearts that loved and trusted Jesus, but He did not send the Holy Spirit to them right away. God wanted to heal the broken relationship His people had with the Samaritans. He wanted them to see that Samaritans were people made in His image too. So, God sent Peter and John, two more of His disciples, to pray for the Samaritans and lay their hands on them. **Ask your neighbor if you can lay your hand gently on their back.** That must have felt nice. Then, guess what? The Holy Spirit came to be with the people who loved and trusted Jesus to help them too!

When Simon saw the Holy Spirit being given to everyone Peter and John touched, he had an idea. He wanted to be able to give the Holy Spirit to whoever he touched too so that he could be powerful and make money again. But wait—does God send the Holy Spirit to someone just because we touch them?

No! **God Is in Charge of Everything**, not Simon or the disciples. God sends the Holy Spirit to whoever He wants. Simon did not understand.

Even though Simon said he wanted to follow Jesus, he wanted to use God's power to make money more so he tried to make a deal with Peter and John.



Let's read what Simon asked them from the Bible. *(Read Acts 8:18–19 from the Bible.)*

Can we buy power from God with money? No! What about God the Holy Spirit? Can we buy Him? No! **God Is in Charge of Everything!** God sends the Holy Spirit to whoever He wants, to everyone who loves and trusts Jesus. Peter told Simon he was sinning and to go tell God he was sorry for his sins through prayer.



Simon wanted to be great and powerful like God but only **God Is in Charge of Everything**. Only God has the power to heal people and give them new, healthy hearts that love and trust Jesus. Only God can send the Holy Spirit to be with His people and be their Helper, like He did for many of the Samaritans as the Church grew and grew.

When we love and trust Jesus, God sends us the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us too! Even though we are all born with hearts that are sick with sin and sin separates us from God, God sent His only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life and die on the cross for our sins. Then, Jesus came back to life so that everyone who loves and trusts Him can have a new heart and be with God forever! **God Is in Charge of Everything** and able to save sinners like me, you, the Samaritans, and even Simon the Magician.

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is in Charge of Everything.” 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. On the count of three, we are going to say, “God Is in Charge of Everything,” with a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. God Is in Charge of Everything. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is in Charge of Everything!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Is in Charge of Everything! Everyone, sit down.

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who left Jerusalem to tell the people of Samaria about Jesus? *(Philip)*
- ☐ Did Israelites like talking to Samaritans? *(No! They walked all the way around Samaria.)*
- ☐ What amazing things did God do through Philip? *(He healed people.)*
- ☐ Who else was doing amazing things, tricking the people with magic? *(Simon)*
- ☐ Was Simon great and powerful like God? *(No!)*
- ☐ Did the Holy Spirit come to be with and help the Samaritans right away? *(No.)*
- ☐ Who came to pray for and put their hands on the Samaritans? *(Peter and John)*
- ☐ When Simon saw the Holy Spirit being given to the people Peter and John were praying for, what did Simon do? *(He offered them money to have that power.)*
- ☐ Can we buy power from God with money? *(No!)*
- ☐ Who is in charge of God? *(Nobody! God Is in Charge of Everything!)*



Philip Preaches



Simon the
Magician



Simon Tries to
Buy Power

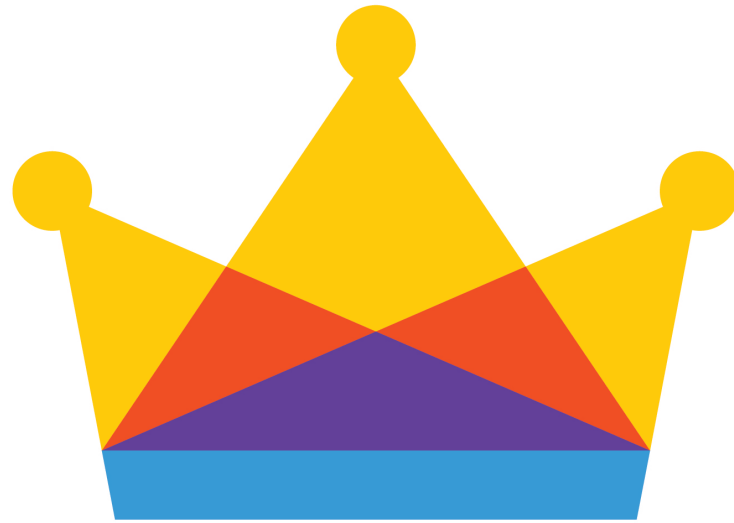


God Is in
Charge of
Everything









**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**



Acts 9

God Saves Saul

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: Sick Heart and Healthy Heart posters, pictures of Saul

KEY TEXT “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.” **Acts 9:15**

- ⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

We have been learning about what happened to Jesus’ disciples and the Church after Jesus went back to heaven. The Church is all the people who love and trust Jesus.

Today we’re going to learn about a man who was really mean to the early Church, but we will see how God changed him! This man’s name was Saul. *(Show the picture of angry Saul.)* **On the count of three, say, “Saul!” 1—2—3! Saul!**

Saul was very mean to the Church because they loved and trusted Jesus. He hated the people who believed **Jesus Came to Save Sinners. It is sin when we hate people.**

God does not want us to hate anyone. Saul had a heart sick with sin. *(Point to the Sick Heart Poster.)*

One day, Saul was on his way to a town to hurt the Church *(show the picture of Saul walking on the road)*, but God planned to do something really special and amazing. A bright light appeared, and Saul heard a voice talking to him! *(Show the picture of Saul blinded by the light.)*

Jesus was talking to Saul! Remember, Jesus had gone back to heaven, but He spoke to Saul! That is amazing! **Everyone, turn to a neighbor and say, “Jesus spoke to Saul!”** Jesus knew Saul was hurting people! He knew Saul was hurting the Church and wanted him to stop.

Saul was a sinner, and **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** Jesus loved Saul and gave Saul a healthy heart that loved and trusted Him. *(Point to the Healthy Heart poster.)*

Jesus told Saul to go to Damascus and wait for help, but something was different. Saul was blind. That means he couldn’t see anything! **Everyone, close your eyes for 1—2—3**

seconds. That’s all Saul could see—just darkness. Saul went to the town and waited for **1—2—3 days** *(count out each time)!*

Jesus had talked to Saul, and He talked to another man, too! His name was Ananias. **On the count of three, say, “Ananias!” 1—2—3! Ananias!** Jesus told Ananias to go find Saul and heal him. Ananias was scared to talk to Saul at first because he had heard that Saul hurt people.

- 📖 The Bible tells us what Jesus said to Ananias about Saul. *(Read Acts 9:15 from the Bible.)* Jesus had given Saul a healthy heart, and God had chosen Saul for a special job. Saul was going to tell lots and lots of people all over the world that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** with the help of the Holy Spirit!

Ananias wasn’t scared anymore and went to Saul, who had been waiting for **1—2—3 days.** Ananias healed Saul, so Saul wasn’t blind anymore. Saul could see again, and he started telling people that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.**

- ➔ Saul had a heart that was sick with sin. He didn’t love God, and he hurt people who did

love God. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** just like Saul. Jesus gave Saul a healthy heart that loved and trusted Jesus. Saul didn't hurt people anymore! Instead, he told lots and lots of people the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to say, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners.” 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to yell, “Jesus Came to Save Sinners!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who was very mean to the Church? *(Saul; he had a heart sick with sin.)*
- ☐ Why did Saul hate the Church? *(They loved and trusted Jesus.)*
- ☐ Who talked to Saul when he was on his way to hurt people? *(Jesus)*
- ☐ What did Jesus give Saul? *(A healthy heart that loved and trusted Him)*
- ☐ Saul was blind for how many days? *(Three days)*
- ☐ What did Saul do after he was healed? *(He started telling people that Jesus Came to Save Sinners!)*
- ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *“Jesus Came to Save Sinners!”*



Persecuting
Believers



On the Road
to Damascus



God Saves Saul



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



1 Timothy 1:12–17

God Sends Paul

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: Sick Heart and Healthy Heart posters, map

KEY TEXT ...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners... **1 Timothy 1:15**

- ⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

In the Bible, we have been learning about Jesus saving a man named Saul. Saul had two names! He also went by the name Paul. **On the count of three, say, "Paul!" 1–2–3! Paul!**

(Point to the Sick Heart and Healthy Heart posters.) Paul was born with a heart sick with sin and was very mean to people who loved and trusted Jesus, but then Jesus gave him a healthy heart. Then he loved and trusted God and helped the people in the Church. Today, we are going to learn more about how the Holy Spirit, the Helper, helped Paul obey Jesus.

Paul believed that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**, and he knew that Jesus told His

followers to go all over the world telling other people who had never heard that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**. Paul wanted other people to hear and believe that! So he went around telling lots and lots of people about Jesus.

Paul took **1–2–3** journeys to tell people around the world about Jesus. Journeys are really long trips. Each one of Paul's trips was at least one year long, and he went to lots of different places. *(Show the map.)*

Everywhere Paul went he told people about Jesus. He taught them about God, and that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** God used Paul to tell people about Jesus, and a whole lot of those people loved and trusted Jesus and became part of the Church.

But not everyone believed. Some people got really mad at Paul for teaching about Jesus. They had sick hearts, and they didn't want to hear about Jesus. They didn't want other people to hear either, so they were really mean to Paul and hurt him.

They beat him and threw stones at him and put him in jail to get him to stop teaching. But

none of that stopped him. The Helper made Paul brave and made Paul want to obey Jesus more than anything. Paul knew that everyone needed to hear that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**, so he kept telling people, even when he was hurt and even when people were mean.

- 📖 The Bible tells us that Paul kept telling people this, even when he was beaten and put in jail. *(Read 1 Timothy 1:15 from the Bible.)*

Paul knew that loving and trusting God is more important than anything else. Everywhere Paul went he told people that they had hearts sick with sin and that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**.

More and more people loved and trusted Jesus, and they taught other people that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners!** The Church was obeying Jesus' command to tell others about Jesus and the Church was growing as more and more people believed.

- ➔ With the help of the Holy Spirit, Paul taught that Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross and was raised again. **Jesus Came to Save Sinners**. He wanted

everyone to hear and believe. We can tell people that, too!

✝ Let's say the Gospel Fingerplay together!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to turn to our neighbor and say, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners." 1—2—3. Jesus Came to Save Sinners. On the count of three, we are going to yell, "Jesus Came to Save Sinners!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! Jesus Came to Save Sinners! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

- ☐ Point to where we are on the God's Big Story Timeline. *(The second "God's people wait" clock)*
 - ☐ What was Paul's other name? *(Saul)*
 - ☐ Did Paul always have a healthy heart? *(No, he had a heart sick with sin until Jesus gave him a healthy heart.)*
 - ☐ How many journeys did Paul take? *(Three)*
 - ☐ What did Paul tell people on his journeys? *(Jesus Came to Save Sinners!)*
- ☐ Did everyone believe him? *(No. Lots of people did, but some people were very mean to Paul because they didn't believe.)*
 - ☐ Did Paul let anything stop him from telling people about Jesus? *(No! The Helper made Paul brave, and Paul wanted everyone to hear and believe that Jesus Came to Save Sinners!)*
 - ☐ Let's say our foundational truth together: *"Jesus Came to Save Sinners!"*



Paul Shares the Gospel with Rich and Poor



Paul Shares the Gospel Near and Far



Paul with Fellow Believers



Jesus Came to Save Sinners









JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



Acts 13:1–14:28

God Sends Paul to Antioch

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY

Supplies: scroll, sandals, map

KEY TEXT...when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. **Acts 14:27**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

We have been learning about Saul, who was also sometimes called Paul. He went by both names. Before God gave him a new, healthy heart, Paul was very mean to the Church. He did not believe that Jesus was God or that Jesus Came to Save Sinners. But God had a different plan for Paul, and one day, when Paul was on his way to hurt the people of the Church and try to stop them, Jesus spoke to Paul and saved him from his sins! Paul went from hating Jesus to loving and trusting Jesus in an instant (*snap your fingers*)! Everyone was amazed!

God saved Paul and sent him to go tell many others that Jesus Came to Save Sinners, just like him. **Paul became a missionary, someone who tells other people in other places the good news about Jesus—the gospel truth!** That's what we're going to talk about today!

Paul, along with other missionaries and friends, traveled to many different places over many years. Paul traveled such a long way and to so many different places that it's hard to remember all the places he traveled to. That's why we use maps to help us!

Maps show us where places are in God's great big world! **If someone made a map of where you are right now, what would it show? Are you in a building or a home?** We can learn a lot about where Paul traveled by looking at a map.

Paul and his friends took three long journeys as missionaries. **Let's count to three! 1–2–3!** We can use the word PACE to help us remember each journey. Let's try it!

P is for Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ (sometimes also called Saul).

A is for Antioch (1st journey)

C is for Corinth (2nd journey)

E is for Ephesus (3rd journey)

Great job! Today, we're going to talk about Paul's first missionary journey to A—Antioch! **On the count of three, say "Antioch." 1–2–3! Antioch!** Paul and his friend, Barnabas, were sent by God to the city of Antioch.

How do you think Paul got to Antioch? Did he hop on a plane or ride a bus? No way! They didn't have planes or buses or cars in Paul's day. Do you see all the water? (*Show the picture of the map.*) How do you think Paul and Barnabas traveled on the water? On a boat! Sometimes, it took a long time. After that, Paul and his friends may have used animals to travel, but they probably just used their feet most of the time! That's a lot of walking, especially when you are wearing sandals. (*Show the sandals.*)

When they got to Antioch, Paul began to teach the gospel to the Jewish people in the places they worshiped God, called a synagogue. **On the count of three, say "synagogue." 1–2–3! Synagogue!** Paul

wanted them to know that Jesus was the promised Savior they had been waiting for. He told them how Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for sins, was buried in a tomb, and on the third day, rose from the dead! Then, Paul told the Jews that, one day, King Jesus would return so they should turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus!

Thankfully, many of the Jewish people believed Paul and they became Christians, or followers of Jesus! They became part of God's family, the Church! Remember, the Church is everyone who has ever loved and trusted Jesus. **The Church Is God's Family!**


Even though many Jews believed what Paul said was true, many did not. They thought Paul was lying about Jesus being the promised Savior, and they were mad. They were also jealous that big crowds were following Paul and Barnabas to listen to their teachings, so they started telling the people that Paul and Barnabas were wrong about Jesus and not to listen to them anymore.

Paul and Barnabas cared for their people, the Jews. They wanted every Jewish person to love and trust Jesus, but when Paul heard

what the angry things the Jewish people were saying, he told them they were going to take the good news of the gospel to the Gentiles. **On the count of three, say, "gentile." 1–2–3! Gentile! A gentile is anyone who is not a Jew.** Most of us are gentiles because we are not Jewish.

Paul told the Jews that the gospel was not only for them, God's special, chosen people, the Israelites, but for everyone! Everyone who loves and trusts Jesus is part of God's family. So, Paul and Barnabas told the gentiles in Antioch the good news about Jesus, and guess what? So many gentiles believed and told others about Jesus that ALL of the nearby towns heard about Jesus too!

When the Jews heard this, they were even angrier and wanted Paul and Barnabas to leave Antioch right away. They did not want the Jews or the Gentiles to hear their words about Jesus anymore. Instead of being angry at the Jews, Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their sandals (*shake the sandals*) and went on to the next city. They shook the dust from their sandals to remind themselves to keep going and not to carry any of the dirt from Antioch with them to the next city.

 When Paul and Barnabas went back to their homes to share with their church what God had done in Antioch, the Bible says in Acts 14:27: **"...when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."**

✈ The church cared for Paul and Barnabas and encouraged them to keep on going, to keep telling others that Jesus Came to Save Sinners, Jewish and Gentile. Everyone who believes is part of God's family forever. **The Church Is God's Family!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "The Church Is God's Family." 1–2–3. The Church Is God's Family. On the count of three, we are going to say, "The Church Is God's Family," with a very slow voice. 1–2–3. The Church Is God's Family. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "The Church Is God's Family!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1–2–3! The Church Is God's Family! Everyone, sit down.

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ What do we call someone who tells other people in other places the gospel truth? *(A missionary)*
- ☐ Paul went on how many missionary journeys? *(Three)*
- ☐ Paul's first journey was to a city called what? *(Antioch)*
- ☐ Did Paul and Barnabas share the gospel with the Jews in Antioch? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Were all of the Jews happy about what Paul and Barnabas were teaching? *(No)*
- ☐ Why were they angry? *(They were jealous and did not believe Jesus was the promised Savior.)*
- ☐ Who did Paul and Barnabas say they were going to teach next? *(Gentiles)*
- ☐ Who are Gentiles? *(Anyone who is not a Jew)*
- ☐ Did the Gentiles believe in Jesus? *(Yes, many of them did! They became a part of the Church!)*
- ☐ Who belongs to the Church? *(Everyone who loves and trusts Jesus; the Church is God's Family!)*



Map 1



Peter Meets
with Believers



The Church is
God's Family

Paul's First Missionary Journey



- Going Out
- - - Coming Back







**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



Acts 15:36–18:22

God Sends Paul to Corinth

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY

Supplies: map, idol

KEY TEXT The God who made the world and everything in it, being the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. **Acts 17: 24-25**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

We have been learning about Paul, an apostle and follower of Jesus who loved God and went on many long journeys as a missionary. A missionary is someone who tells other people in other places the good news about Jesus—the gospel truth!

Paul, along with other missionaries and friends, traveled to many different places over many years. Paul traveled such a long way and to so many different places that it's hard to remember all the places he traveled to. That's why we use maps to help us!

Maps show us where places are in God's great big world! **If someone made a map of where you are right now, what would it show? Are you in a building or a home?** We can learn a lot about where Paul traveled by looking at a map.

Paul and his friends took three long journeys as missionaries. **Let's count to three! 1-2-3!** We can use the word PACE to help us remember each journey. Let's try it!

P is for Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ (sometimes also called Saul).

A is for Antioch (1st journey)

C is for Corinth (2nd journey)

E is for Ephesus (3rd journey)

Great job! Last time, we talked about Paul's first journey to Antioch, where he shared the good news of the gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles. A gentile is anyone who is not a Jew, not an Israelite. Many Jews and Gentiles believed and trusted in Jesus! But sadly, many Jews did not believe, so Paul and Barnabas shook the dust from their sandals and left to share the gospel in other cities where many more people loved and trusted Jesus too!

Afterward, they sailed back home to their home and church.

Today, we're going to talk about Paul's second missionary journey, all the way to C—Corinth! **On the count of three, say Corinth. 1-2-3! Corinth!** It was a very, very long trip, but once again, Paul was not alone. Friends named Silas, Timothy, and Luke went with Paul on this journey. On the way to Corinth, Paul and his friends passed through many cities, where they met new people and shared the good news that Jesus Came to Save Sinners with them. Many people loved and trusted Jesus after hearing Paul and his friends teach. God's Church was growing quickly. **The Church Is God's Family!**


Paul and his friends wanted all people, both Jews and Gentiles, to love and trust Jesus. When Paul and his friends traveled to a new city, they taught in the synagogues first, because as God's special, chosen people, the Jews were waiting for the promised Savior to come, and Paul wanted them to know that the promised Savior was Jesus! Remember, a synagogue is where Jewish people went to worship God.


Many Jews believed and became Christians, or followers of Jesus, but sadly, many Jews did not believe and were angry with Paul and his friends. They were confused and jealous and didn't understand their need for Jesus to give them new, healthy hearts that loved and trusted Him. In their anger, they even had Paul and Silas put in prison! But God rescued them, and they moved on to the next city called Athens.

While Paul was in Athens, he taught lots and lots of people about Jesus in the most important part of the city. In this place, people would buy and sell things, and they would also spend time talking about lots of different ideas and thoughts about the world. They didn't know what to believe or what was true so they spent all their time talking about their own ideas. They also worshiped idols or images like statues of other gods. *(Show the idol.)* Are there other gods? No way! There is only one, true God, and only He deserves our worship, so the people of Athens worshiped fake gods and loved other things more than they loved God.

Along with the idols, the people in Athens made an altar to an "unknown god" just in

case they were missing one. The people were fearful of their gods and thought if they didn't worship them right, bad things would happen, so they made an altar to an unknown god just to be sure they didn't forget to worship a god they might not know about. Paul knew that the people were confused and didn't know the one, true God, so he spent time telling them all about Him and about how Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

 Paul told the people: **"The God who made the world and everything in it, being the Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."**

 Paul wanted the people to know that God doesn't live in houses or buildings made by people. God is in heaven over everything! Humans can't make God. God Made Everything, including humans. He is the one, true God who is alive and loves His people so much that he sent His Son, Jesus, to come and save sinners. Everyone who loves and

trusts Jesus can worship God with joy, not fear, because God Is Good. God alone deserves all of our worship.

After Paul left Antioch, he went to Corinth where he taught people about Jesus for a long time—over a year! Then, he sailed home on a boat, and he and his friends returned home to their church to spend some time there. The church cared for Paul, and Paul went to other churches in the area, encouraging them to keep telling others that Jesus Came to Save Sinners. **The Church Is God's Family!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "The Church Is God's Family." 1—2—3. The Church Is God's Family. On the count of three, we are going to turn to our neighbor and say, "The Church Is God's Family." 1—2—3. The Church Is God's Family. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, "The Church Is God's Family!" If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! The Church Is God's Family! Everyone, sit down.

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ What do we call someone who tells other people in other places the gospel truth? *(A missionary)*
- ☐ How many missionary journeys did Paul go on? *(Three)*
- ☐ Paul's second journey was to a city called what? *(Corinth)*
- ☐ Did Paul and his friends share the gospel with the Jews in the synagogues? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Did Paul and his friends share the gospel with the Gentiles too? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ What were the people in Athens worshipping? *(Idols)*
- ☐ Are the gods the people were worshipping real? *(No!)*
- ☐ Is the one, true God an idol made by human hands? *(No!)*
- ☐ Who alone deserves all of our worship? *(God!)*
- ☐ Who belongs to the Church? *(Everyone who loves and trusts Jesus; The Church Is God's Family!)*



Map 2



Paul Working
as a Tentmaker



The Church Is
God's Family

MAP
2

**Paul's Second
Missionary
Journey**







**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



Acts 18:23–21:16

God Sends Paul to Ephesus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY

Supplies: map, idol

KEY TEXT "...I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." **Acts 20:24**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

We have been learning about Paul and his missionary journeys. **A missionary is someone who tells other people in other places the good news about Jesus**—the gospel truth!

Paul, along with other missionaries and friends, traveled to many different places over many years. Paul traveled such a long way and to so many different places that it's hard to remember all the places he traveled to. That's why we use maps to help us!

Maps show us where places are in God's great big world! **If someone made a map**

of where you are right now, what would it show? Are you in a building or a home?

We can learn a lot about where Paul traveled by looking at a map.

Paul and his friends took three long journeys as missionaries. **Let's count to three!**

1–2–3! We can use the word PACE to help us remember each journey. Let's try it!

P is for Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ (sometimes also called Saul).

A is for Antioch (1st journey)

C is for Corinth (2nd journey)

E is for Ephesus (3rd journey)

Great job! Today, we're going to talk about Paul's third missionary journey, to E—Ephesus! **Can you say Ephesus?**

God has sent Paul all the places on this map to tell everyone the good news about Jesus. Paul was a Jew, part of God's special chosen people, so everywhere he went, Paul began by telling other Jews about Jesus, but he also told Gentiles. **Remember, a "gentile" is just a fancy word for anyone who is not a Jew.** Even though the Jewish people were God's chosen people, anyone who loves and

trusts Jesus is part of God's family.

The Church Is God's Family!


After his last journey to Corinth, Paul stayed home for a while. Then, he and some missionary friends set out on their third journey to Ephesus. Like Athens, the people of Ephesus worshiped idols and false gods, but they had one god they worshiped more than any other, called Artemis. The people of Ephesus built a temple for Artemis so they could worship there. They told many stories about Artemis and believed Artemis could give them bigger flocks of animals and bigger families. The people of Ephesus made lots of money selling idols of Artemis for people to worship at home.

Paul knew that the people were confused and didn't know the one, true God, so he spent time telling them all about Him and about how Jesus Came to Save Sinners. The men who made the idols of Artemis were very mad at Paul for sharing the gospel because so many people were trusting in Jesus that they weren't making money from selling idols anymore!

The people were also mad at Paul and his friends for not worshiping Artemis. Paul's

friends, Gaius and Aristarchus, were taken into a big arena where people yelled at them and tried to make them believe that Artemis was real so they would worship her. But Paul and his friends trusted God, not Artemis, and the ruler of the city put an end to the riot, setting Paul's friends free.

Afterward, Paul spoke to the leaders in the church at Ephesus and encouraged them to keep telling everyone the good news of the gospel, even though it meant hard things would happen. Paul told the leaders that God was sending him to another city, Jerusalem, where he would be put in prison and hurt and would maybe even die.

 But Paul told them: **“...I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”**

✈ Even though they were hard and sometimes dangerous, Paul went on three long missionary journeys because God is bringing more and more people into His family, the Church. God wants all people—Jews, Gentiles, everybody—to love and trust Jesus so that they can be with Him forever. That's why Paul wanted everyone from Ephesus to the ends of the world to know that sharing the good news of the gospel was more important than anything, even his own life.

God wants everyone all over the world to know that He sent His Son to be born as a baby, Jesus, to live the perfect life, to die on

the cross for our sins, and to rise from the dead, so that everyone who loves and trusts Jesus can have a new, healthy heart and be with God forever as part of God's family, the Church. **The Church Is God's Family!**

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “The Church Is God's Family.” 1—2—3. The Church Is God's Family. On the count of three, we are going to say, “The Church Is God's Family,” with a big, deep voice. 1—2—3. The Church Is God's Family.

Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “The Church Is God's Family!” If you don't like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! The Church Is God's Family! Everyone, sit down.

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

- ☐ What do we call someone who tells other people in other places the gospel truth? *(A missionary)*
- ☐ Paul went on how many missionary journeys? *(Three)*
- ☐ Paul's third journey was to a city called what? *(Ephesus)*
- ☐ Were they worshiping God or idols in Ephesus? *(Idols)*
- ☐ Were the people of Ephesus happy or angry at Paul for sharing the gospel? *(Both)*
- ☐ Did God rescue Paul's friends from the angry people? *(Yes!)*
- ☐ Was Paul afraid to tell others the good news of the gospel? *(No!)*
- ☐ Why not? *(People need to hear the good news about Jesus so that God can give them new hearts that love and trust Him, so they can be with Him forever!)*
- ☐ Is anything more important than following Jesus? *(No!)*
- ☐ Who is God's family? *(The Church Is God's Family!)*



Map 3



Paul Baptizes
Ephesians



The Church Is
God's Family

MAP 3

Paul's Third Missionary Journey



- Going Out
- - - Coming Back







**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



Text Revelation 21

? Jesus Will Come Again

FOUNDA TION A U T H O R I T Y D O G S I S O O G O O D

KEY TEXT And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” **Revelation 21:3–4**

⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

The Bible is God’s true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.

In the Bible, we have been learning about how God saved a man named Paul and then used him to go around and tell the good news of Jesus. Many, many people heard the good news, believed the good news and were saved! They became part of the Church. **The Church is everyone who loves and trusts Jesus.**

Today, we are going to talk about God’s Big Story and how the Church will get to be with God forever!

Remember, we learned that in the beginning **God Made Everything** (point to the “*God Made Everything*” circle on the *God’s Big Story Timeline*), and everything God made was good. God was with Adam and Eve in the beautiful garden that He made. There is nothing better than getting to be with God!

God gave Adam and Eve one, good rule that would keep them safe and let them be with Him. Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s one, good rule. (Point to the “*Adam and Eve sinned*” circle *God’s Big Story Timeline*.) Adam and Eve sinned when they disobeyed God. **Sin is anything we do or think that is different from what God wants.**

When Adam and Eve sinned, everything in God’s perfect world broke. Now there was sickness and death and sadness, and bad things. When Adam and Eve sinned, their hearts became sick with sin. (Point to the *Sick Heart poster*.)

Supplies: God’s Big Story circles, Sick Heart poster, picture of the people of the Church with Jesus, God’s Big Story Timeline


God punished Adam and Eve for disobeying Him. He sent them out of the garden. (Point away from the group.) But before God sent them out, He made them a promise. (Show the *God’s Big Story “Promise of a Savior” circle*.) God promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to rescue God’s people from sin. It took many, many years of waiting (show the *God’s Big Story “God’s people wait” clock*), but then Jesus was born.

(Point to the “*Jesus was born*” circle on the *God’s Big Story Timeline*.) **God Is Good** and kept His promise to send the Savior! Jesus lived a perfect life and then died on the cross for sin. (Point to the “*Jesus died for sin*” circle on the *God’s Big Story Timeline*.)

But Jesus didn’t stay dead! After **1–2–3** days, Jesus was raised from the dead! (Point to the “*Jesus was raised*” circle on the *God’s Big Story Timeline*.) Jesus was going to go back to heaven, but before He did, He told those who loved and trusted Him to go and tell everyone around the whole world the good news that He came to save sinners. He also promised that He would come back for them!

Now, the Church is waiting for Jesus to come back (*point to the second “God’s people wait” clock on the God’s Big Story Timeline*), but while they wait, they are telling people all over the world the good news of Jesus.

One day, Jesus will return! (*Show the God’s Big Story “Jesus will return” circle.*) When He does, He will make everything that is broken because of sin brand new. There will be no more sickness, no more death, no more sadness, and no more bad things! And the best part is that everyone who loves and trusts Jesus will be with God forever (*show the picture of the people of the Church with Jesus*)!

 **Read Revelation 21:3–4 from the Bible.**
Explain that dwell means “to live with.”

➔ **God Is Good!** He will fix everything that is broken and make it brand new! God will live with the Church, those who love and trust Him, forever!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, “God Is Good.” 1–2–3. God Is Good. On the count of three, we are

going to sing, “God Is Good.” 1–2–3. God Is Good. Now, everyone, stand up! On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Is Good!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1–2–3. God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for being good.

Review Questions

- ☐ Who is the Church? (*Everyone who loves and trusts Jesus*)
- ☐ What is the Church doing right now? (*Telling people all around the world the good news of Jesus and waiting for Jesus to come back*)
- ☐ In the beginning, what did God make? (*God Made Everything, and everything God made was good.*)
- ☐ Who got to be with God in the perfect garden that He made? (*Adam and Eve*)
- ☐ Why did they have to leave the garden? (*They disobeyed God’s one, good rule.*)
- ☐ What happened to God’s perfect world when Adam and Eve sinned? (*Everything broke because of sin; now there is sickness, death, sadness, and bad things, and everyone is born with hearts that are sick with sin.*)
- ☐ God promised Adam and Eve that one day He would send a Savior to rescue God’s people from sin. Who is the Savior who came to save sinners? (*Jesus*)
- ☐ Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross for sin. Did Jesus stay dead? (*No! After three days, Jesus rose from the dead.*)
- ☐ What will happen when Jesus comes back? (*Everything that is broken because of sin will be made brand new. There will be no more sickness, death, sadness, or bad things, and everyone who loves and trusts in Jesus will be with God forever!*)
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“God Is Good!”*



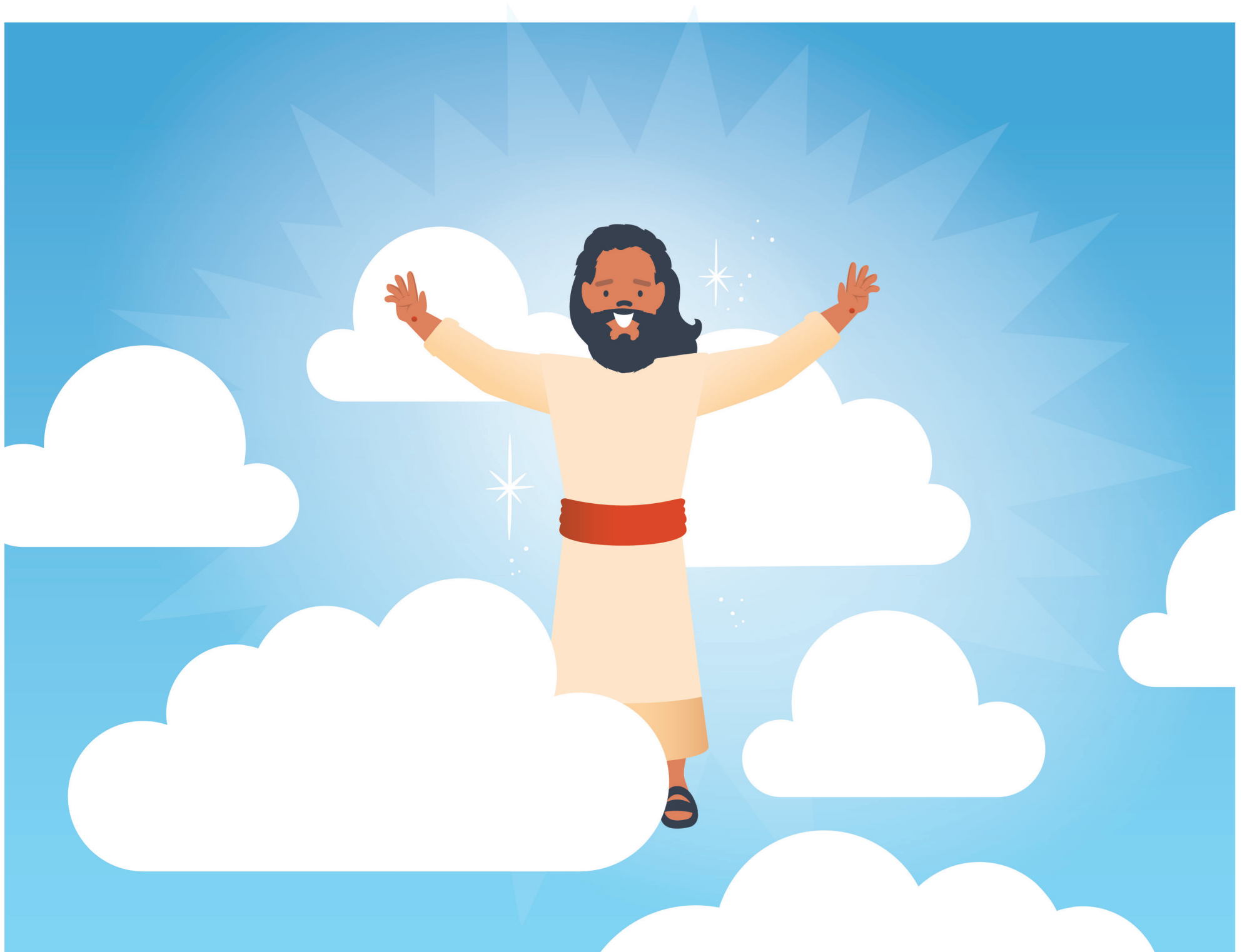
Jesus Will
Return



Believers From
Every Tongue
and Tribe
With Jesus



God Is Good







**GOD IS
GOOD**



Psalm 33:4

God's True Word

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

KEY TEXT For the word of the LORD is right and true... **Psalm 33:4a NIV**

- ⇒ Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you and the children what is good and true about Jesus through this story from the Bible.

(Show the Bible.) **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

In the Bible, we have been learning that one day, Jesus will return! *(Point to the "Jesus will return" circle on the God's Big Story Timeline.)* When He does, He will make everything that is broken because of sin brand new. There will be no more sickness, no more death, no more sadness, and no more bad things! And the best part is that everyone who loves and trusts Jesus will be with God forever!

How do we know that's true? Every week, we start our lesson like this: **The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God. Let's all say that together on the count of three. 1—2—3! The Bible is God's true Word. The Bible is from God and about God.**

(Show the Bible.) **God Wants to Talk With Us!** God has chosen to talk with us mostly through the Bible. We can trust that the Bible is true because God says it is.

📖 *Read Psalm 33:4a from the Bible using the New International Version.*

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised that He would send the Helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Bible. We can't understand all of what God is telling us in the Bible without God's help. The Holy Spirit is our Helper to help us understand the Bible. **God Want to Talk With Us** so He helps us understand what He is telling us.

Look at these examples of what the Bible looked like when it was first written *(show the pictures of original manuscripts)*. Now look at our Bibles! *(Show a Bible.)* **God Wants to Talk With Us**, and He made the Bible into the language that we can understand.

Did you know that the Bible is not just in the language that we understand? The Bible has been written in many different languages so

Supplies: Bible, examples of the Bible's original manuscripts, Bibles in other languages, God's Big Story Timeline

that people from all over the world can read God's true Word. God loves the whole world and wants everyone, everywhere, to hear the good news of Jesus that is found in the Bible *(show Bibles in different languages)*.

There are 66 books of the Bible *(show some of the books within the Bible)* written by different men with the help of the Holy Spirit! These books tell us God's Big Story that we learn every week together *(point to the God's Big Story Timeline)*. The Bible is about God, so as we read the Bible we can look at what these stories tell us about Him!

- ✈ We read the Bible so we can know God. As we know God, then we learn to love, trust, and obey Him. God uses the truth in the Bible to change sick hearts into healthy hearts. **God Wants to Talk With Us**, and He does that through the Bible, God's true Word!

On the count of three, we are going to whisper, "God Wants to Talk With Us." 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us. On the count of three, we are going to hold out our hands like we are holding a Bible and say, "God Wants to Talk With Us." 1—2—3. God Wants to Talk With Us.

On the count of three, we are going to yell, “God Wants to Talk With Us!” If you don’t like loud noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3! God Wants to Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down!

Pray and thank God for wanting to talk with us!

Review Questions

- ☐ Who gave us the Bible? *(God)*
- ☐ Is every story in the Bible true? *(Yes, the Bible is God’s true Word.)*
- ☐ Who wrote the Bible? *(God used men to write the Bible with the help of the Holy Spirit.)*
- ☐ Who is the Bible about? *(The Bible is about God.)*
- ☐ Is the Bible only in the language that we can understand? *(No, the Bible is in many different languages.)*
- ☐ What are some stories that we have learned from the Bible this year? *(Talk about different stories that they have learned from the Bible this year.)*
- ☐ Let’s say our foundational truth together: *“God Wants to Talk With Us!”*

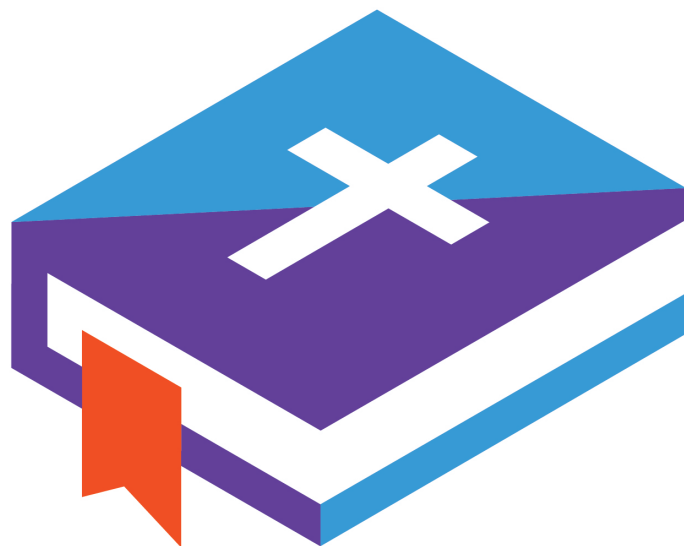


**Gathering in
Homes, Reading
the Bible**



**God Wants to
Talk With Us**





GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US

Appendix

Class Rules

Six Foundational Truths

Sick Heart/Healthy Heart

God's Big Story Timeline

Gospel Fingerplay

"Have You Heard About Jesus?" Map

Glossary

Classroom Rules

1

with
our



(mouth)

We can talk
after we...



(raise our hands)

2

with
our



(hands)

We...



(clap-and-lap)

...during
storytime.

3

with
our



(ears)

We listen
to our...



(teachers and friends)

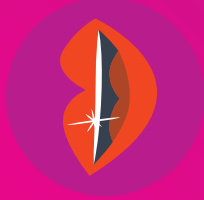
4

with
our



(face)

We...



(smile)

as we
obey...



(our teachers)

5

with
our



(feet)

We...



(walk)

...from place
to place.



GOD
MADE
EVERYTHING



JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS



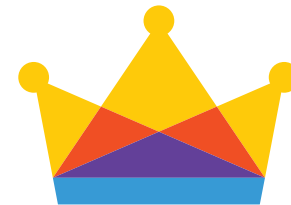
GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



GOD IS
GOOD



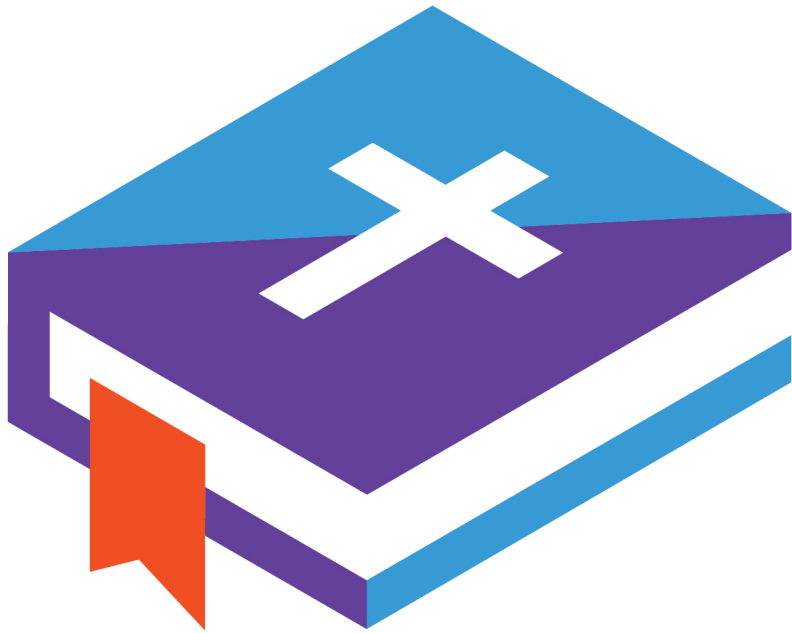
THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY



GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING



GOD IS
GOOD



GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US



**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**



GOD
MADE
EVERYTHING



JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS

Sick Heart



Healthy Heart





Gospel Fingerplay

Jesus came down

Hold both hands up high above your head.

Lower hands while wiggling fingers.

to be born as a little baby.

Hold arms like you are cradling a baby.

He lived a perfect life.

Give two thumbs-up.

He died on the cross for our sins.

Cross one arm over the other to make a cross.

He was buried in a tomb.

Put one hand on top of the other to make a tomb.

On the third day,

Hold up three fingers.

He rose from the dead.

Make three fingers rise into the air.

And that's the gospel truth!

Pound fist on open hand as you say each word.

A Biblical Timeline

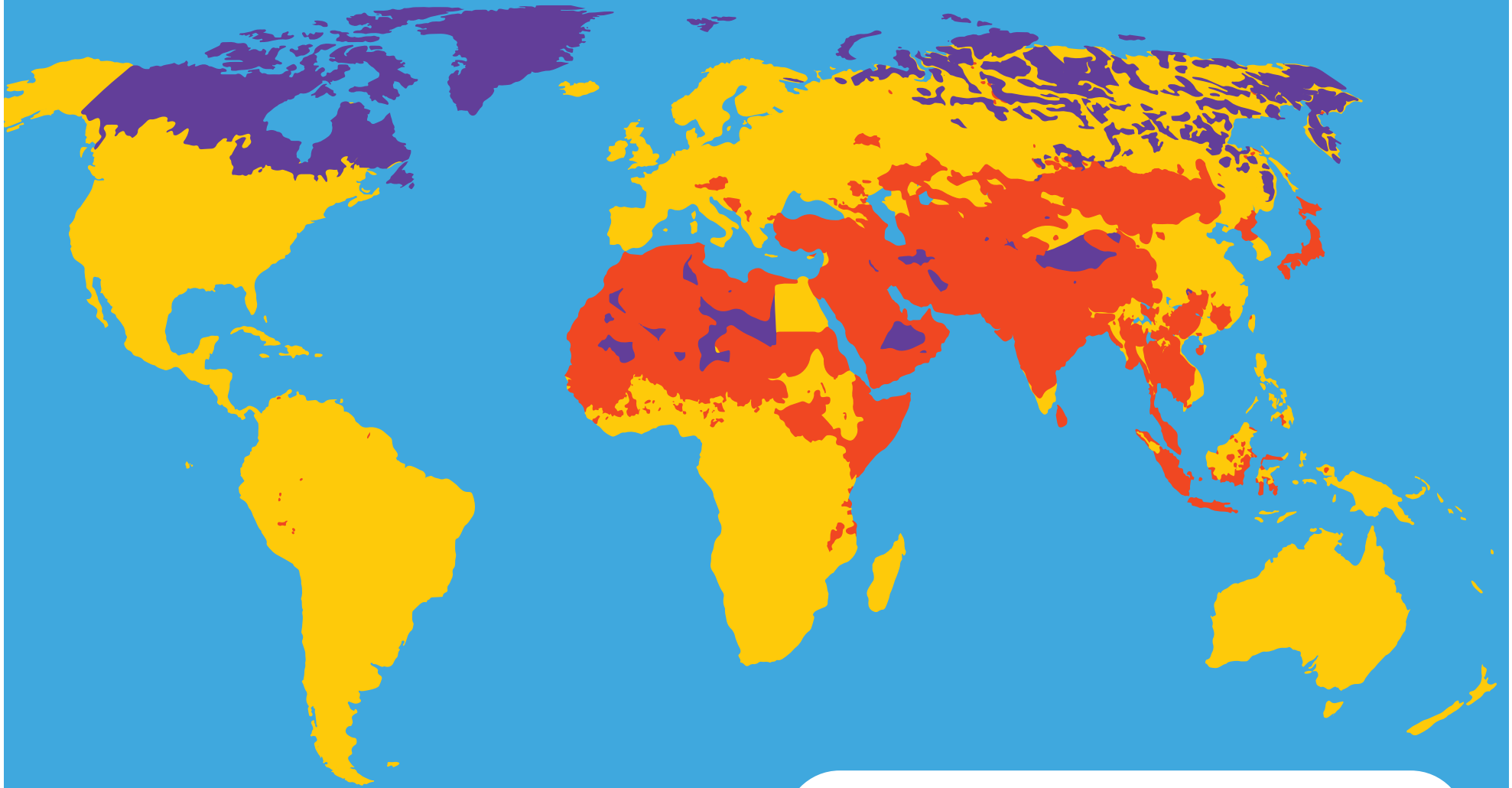
OLD TESTAMENT

GOD'S BIG STORY

NEW TESTAMENT



Have you heard about Jesus?



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.

GLOSSARY

DEFINITIONS FOR TEACHERS

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's true Word. It is from God and about God. God the Holy Spirit helped many different men at many different times write all the different books of the Bible, but it's all one, true story about God. **God Wants to Talk With Us** through the Bible.

THE CHURCH

The Church is not a building. The Church is every person who loves and trusts Jesus. There are many people around the world that gather together in buildings to spend time learning about God, worshiping God, and remembering the good news that **Jesus Came to Save Sinners** together.

ENSLAVED PEOPLE

Enslaved people are not in charge of their own lives and have to do whatever their enslaver tells them to do. Most of the time, enslaved people are treated very, very badly, and their enslavers are mean to them. They do all the hard work but don't make any money. It is terrible to be enslaved. God never wants us to treat people the way those who are enslaved are treated.

FORGIVENESS

God does not give His children the punishment they deserve for sin. Jesus took the punishment for sin by dying on the cross. God forgives sinners because God is love. God loves His children! We can never be good enough to make God forgive us. We have to love and trust Jesus to be forgiven.

GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

Throughout the Bible, we see an overarching timeline of God's work, sometimes referred to as the metanarrative. Over the course of this curriculum, you can refer back to this timeline to help children gain an understanding of how each narrative fits into God's Big Story. It is our hope that they grow in their understanding of not only when things happened, but also how we are still waiting with hope for the promise of Christ's return to come true.

HATE

It is sin to hate people. God does not want us to sin or hate anyone, even if they aren't easy to love.

LAWS

God's laws and rules are always good. Obeying them is always good for us! We can never obey God's laws perfectly. We all need a Savior to save us from our sin. Laws given to us by God are always good because **God Is Good**, but laws given to us by people are not always good because we are all sinners. We should never obey laws given to us by people more than laws given to us by God.

PRAYER

We can talk to God through prayer anywhere, anytime, about anything. When we pray, we can tell God how great He is or thank God for everything He does and gives. We can ask God to do something or give something, and we can tell God the truth about our sin. God already knows everything about us, but **God Wants to Talk With Us** because He loves us and wants us to love Him!

SALVATION (HEALTHY HEART)

God rescues and saves people from their sin. Sin separates us from God and we die, but God takes our sick, sinful hearts and gives us a new, healthy

heart when we love and trust Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, but Jesus didn't stay dead. Jesus came back to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trust Him can have a healthy heart and live with God forever.

Jesus Came to Save Sinners!

SICK HEART/HEALTHY HEART

Because Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God, everyone who is born

after them (that's us!) is born with a heart that is sick with sin. Our hearts are sick because they love other things more than they love God, but Jesus was born with a perfectly healthy heart that loves God because Jesus is God's Son, not Adam's. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sins. Then, He came back to life three days later so that everyone who loves and trusts Jesus can have a new, healthy heart like His that loves God most! **Jesus Came to Save Sinners.**

WORSHIP

Worship is telling and showing someone or something that they are most valuable. Only God deserves our worship. We can worship God by singing songs, praying, telling others about Him and reading God's Word. When we love and trust God, our hearts want to worship Him.



The Village Church®

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