

LITTLE VILLAGE

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

NEW TESTAMENT

Volume 2

Ages 3-Kindergarten



These resources are created in collaboration with the individuals below and in light of our mission to **love God, love people, and make disciples of Jesus Christ** and our vision to generously resource people across the globe with the gifts that God has entrusted to us. To our many friends who have authored and edited this curriculum along the way, we say thank you for your faithfulness in making Christ known from here to the ends of the earth.

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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 in Charge of Everything, God Is Good, Jesus Came to Save Sinners, God Wants to Talk With Us, and The Church Is God's Family.**

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.



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.

Jesus Forgives a Woman

LUKE 7:36-50



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 heart 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' Triumphant Entry

MATTHEW 21; 26



Matthew 21; 26

Jesus' Triumphal Entry

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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."

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

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 Clears the Temple

JOHN 2:13-22



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 and 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 worshipping 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



Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!





Jesus Dies on the Cross

LUKE 23



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 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.)*

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

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. 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!”*



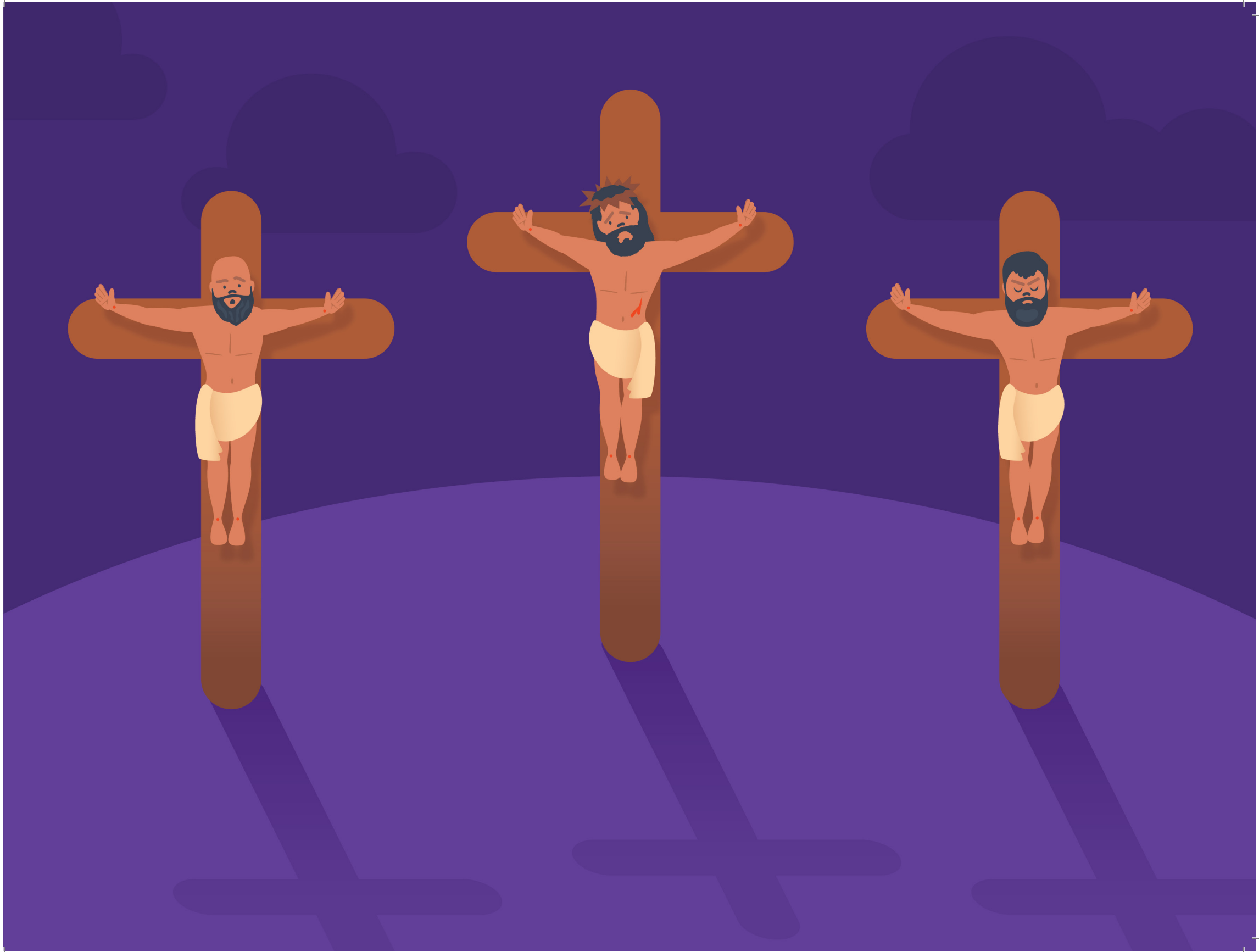
Jesus Dies on the Cross



Tomb Is Sealed



Jesus Came to Save Sinners





Jesus Comes Back to Life

MATTHEW 28



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

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

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





Easter Review

MATTHEW 28:5-6



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 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.

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

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!*)
- Let's say our foundational truth together: *Jesus Came to Save Sinners!*



Entering Jerusalem



The Last Supper



Jesus Dies on the Cross



Tomb Is Sealed



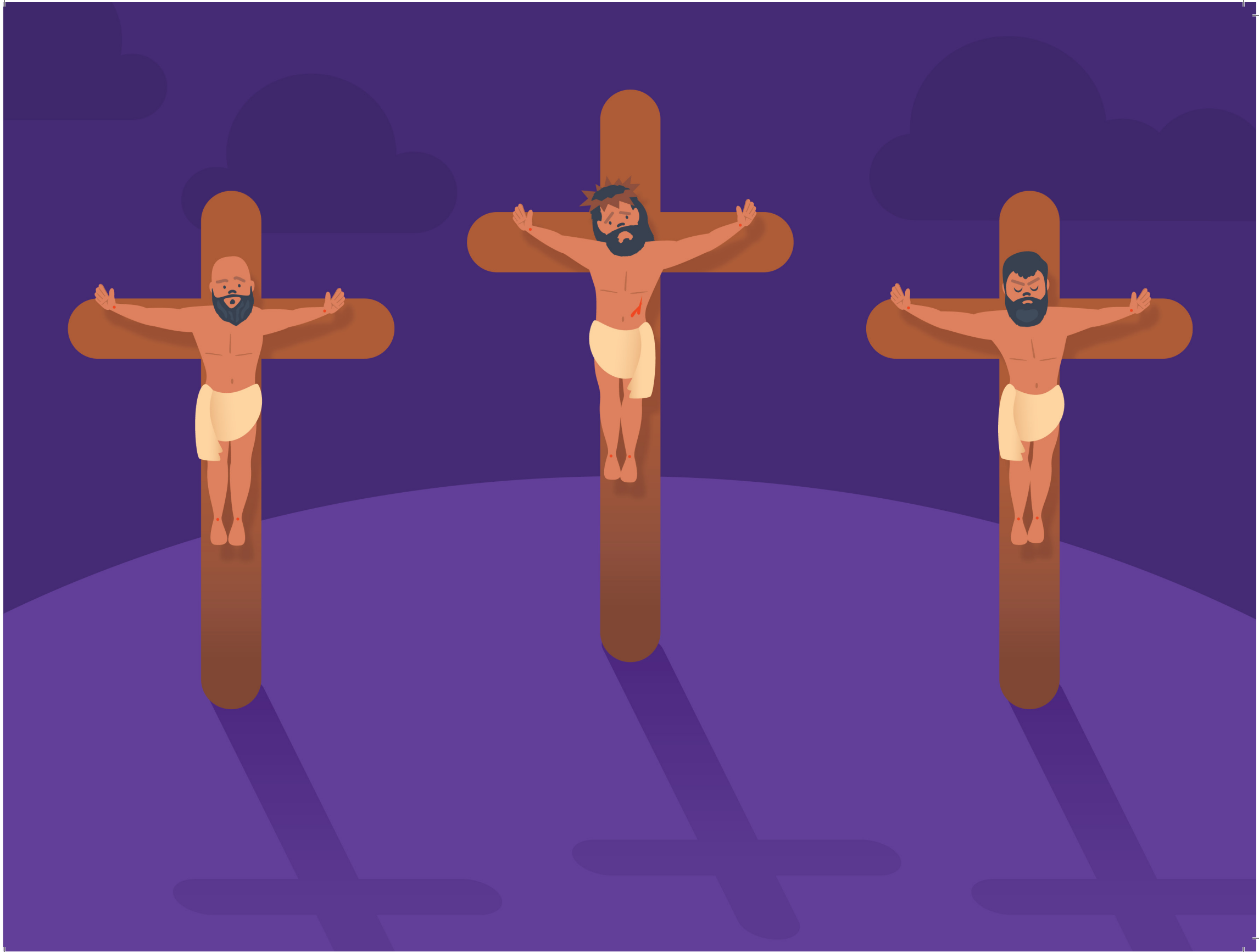
Tomb Is Empty



Jesus Came to Save Sinners











Jesus Eats With His Disciples

JOHN 21:1-17



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 for wanting 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



Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

MATTHEW 28:16-20; ACTS 1:1-11



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.)*

- ➔ 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,

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

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 Eats with His Disciples and Goes Back to Heaven

JOHN 21:1-17, MATTHEW 28:16-20, ACTS 1:1-11



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

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

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

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





God Is in Heaven

PSALM 115:3; ROMANS 8:34



Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:34

God Is in Heaven

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

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

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

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 Sends a Helper

ACTS 2



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!

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*

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

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 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





Merhaba!

ಹಲವೇ

Olà

Talofa!

Guten tag!

Nay hoh!

Zdravo!

Hola!

Helô!

こんにちは

Ciao!

Jambo!

The Holy Spirit Helps Peter

ACTS 2



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**



The Church Begins

ACTS 2



Acts 2

The Church Begins

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH THE CHURCH IS GOD'S FAMILY

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

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

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











God Rescues Peter from Prison

ACTS 12:1-19



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,

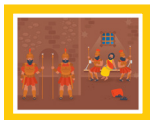
and leaders. **God Is in Charge of Everything** and nothing can stop Him from making all things new.

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







The Holy Spirit is Given in Samaria

ACTS 8:4-25



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 Saves Saul

ACTS 9



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 close our eyes 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

- 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







God Sends Paul

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17



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







God Sends Paul to Antioch

ACTS 13:1-14:28



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



Peter Meets with Believers



The Church is God's Family

Paul's First Missionary Journey



- Going Out
- - - Coming Back

MAP 1





God Sends Paul to Corinth

ACTS 15:36-18:22



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



Paul Working
as a Tentmaker



The Church Is
God's Family

**MAP
2**

**Paul's Second
Missionary
Journey**





TENTS
for sale

God Sends Paul to Ephesus

ACTS 18:23–21:16



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



Paul Baptizes Ephesians



The Church Is God's Family

**MAP
3**

**Paul's Third
Missionary
Journey**



-  Going Out
-  Coming Back





Jesus Will Come Again

REVELATION 21



Revelation 21

Jesus Will Come Again

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

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*.)

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

Supplies: God’s Big Story circles, Sick Heart poster, picture of the people of the Church with Jesus, God’s Big Story Timeline

(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's True Word

PSALM 33:4



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 Wants 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 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

Supplies: Bible, examples of the Bible's original manuscripts, Bibles in other languages, God's Big Story Timeline

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**



Appendix

Class Rules

1

with our



(mouth)

We can talk after we...



(raise our hands)

2

with our



(hands)

We... ..during storytime.



(clap-and-lap)

3

with our



(ears)

We listen to our...



(teachers and friends)

4

with our



(face)

We... as we obey...



(smile)



(our teachers)

5

with our



(feet)

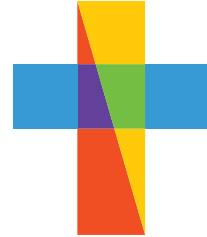
We... ..from place to place.



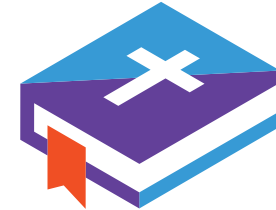
(walk)



**GOD
MADE
EVERYTHING**



**JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS**



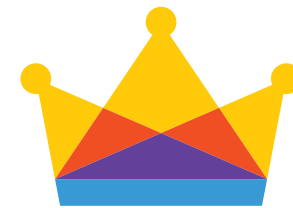
**GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US**



**GOD IS
GOOD**



**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



**GOD IS IN
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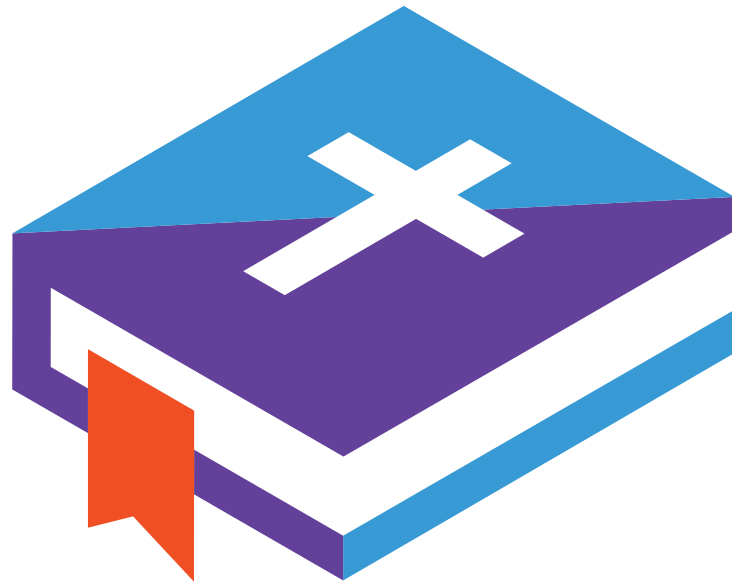
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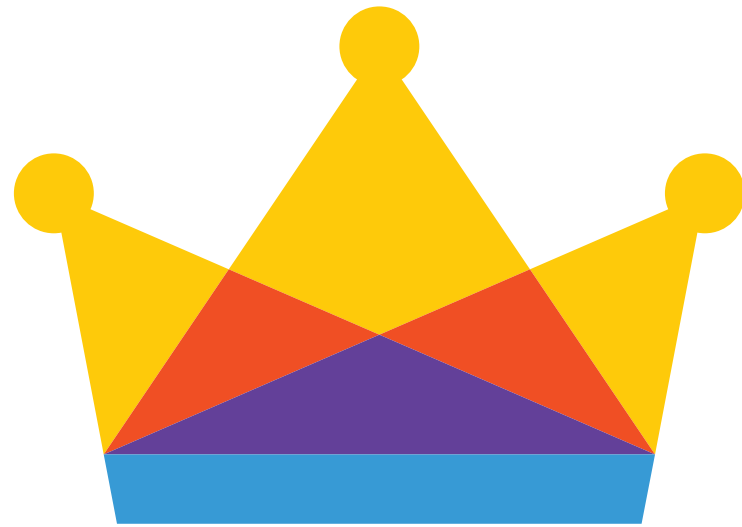
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**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
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Sick Heart



Healthy Heart



A Biblical Timeline

OLD TESTAMENT

GOD'S BIG STORY

NEW TESTAMENT





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.

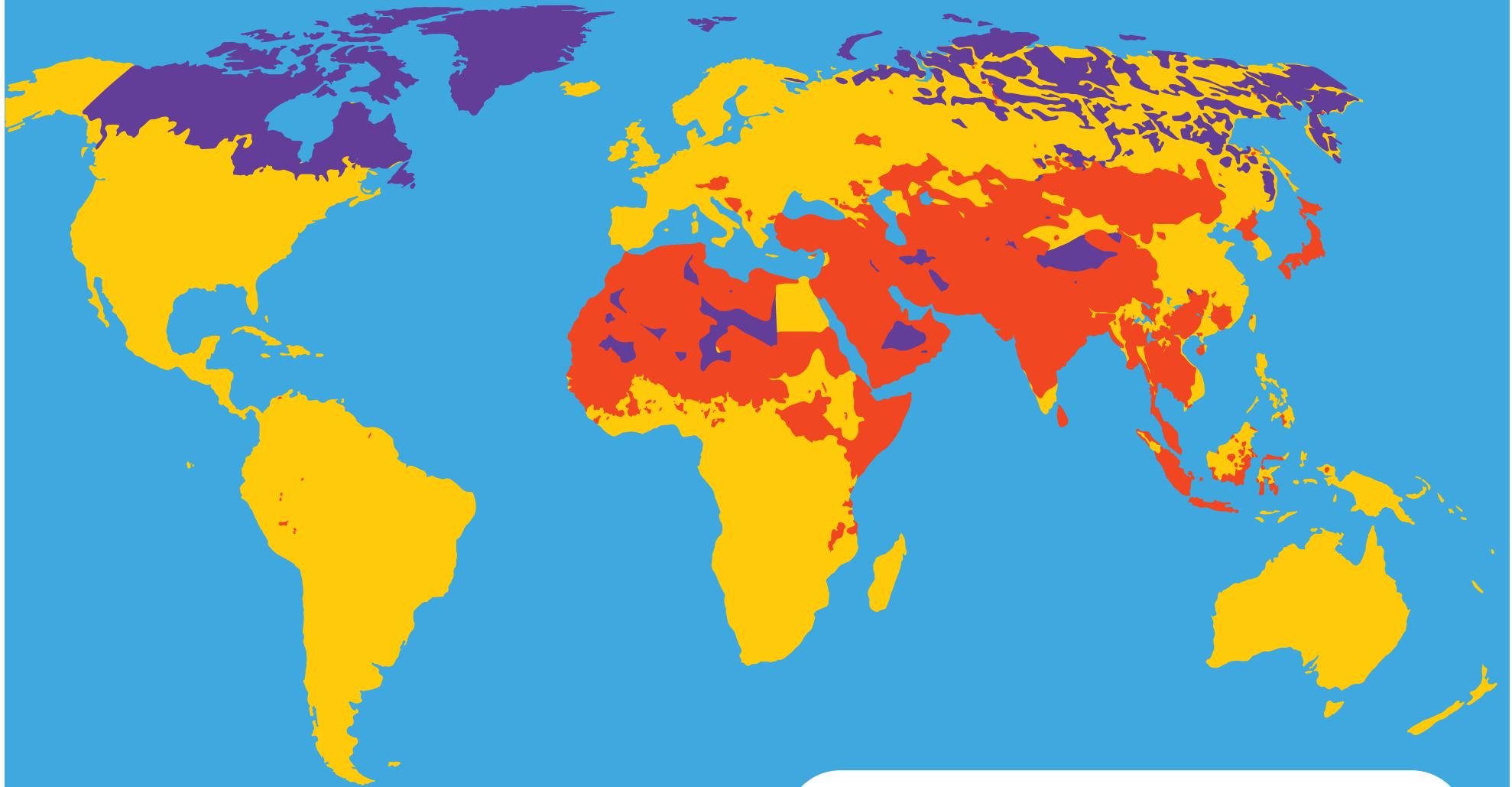
He rose from the dead.

Make three fingers rise into the air.

And that's the gospel truth!

Pound fist on open hand as you say each word.

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.

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.**

SLAVERY

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, slaves are treated very, very badly, and their masters are mean to them. They do all of the hard work but don't make

any money. It is terrible to be a slave. God never wants us to treat people the way slaves are treated.

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.

A Biblical Timeline

OLD TESTAMENT

GOD'S BIG STORY

NEW TESTAMENT

