

LITTLE VILLAGE

PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

NEW TESTAMENT

Volume 1

Ages 3-Kindergarten



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NEW TESTAMENT

Ages 3–Kindergarten

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LITTLE VILLAGE PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

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

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

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

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

A STRONG FOUNDATION

The lessons throughout this curriculum highlight one of these Six Foundational Truths: **God Made Everything, God Is 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.

Advent Begins: God Promises a Savior

GENESIS 3



Genesis 3

Advent Begins: God Promises a Savior

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, we learn that **God Made Everything**. *(Point to the "God made everything" circle on God's Big Story Timeline.)* And everything He made was perfect. There was no sin or sadness or sickness or death. God created Adam and Eve, and they had hearts that loved and trusted Jesus. *(Point to the Healthy Heart poster.)* God placed Adam and Eve in a garden called Eden. Eden was perfect! It was beautiful and full of good things like animals and tasty food. But the best thing about the garden was that Adam and Eve got to be with God! They got to walk with God and talk with God and see God face-to-face. There is nothing better than getting to be with God!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

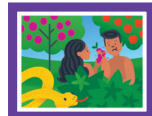
- This is where we are in God's Big Story. *(Point to each circle from the lesson: "God made everything," "Adam and Eve sinned" and "God promised a Savior.")*
- Where did Adam and Eve live? *(The garden, Eden)*
- What was God's one rule for the garden? *(God told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from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



The Garden of Eden



Serpent Lying



Adam and Eve Disobey



Sick World



Jesus Came to Save Sinners

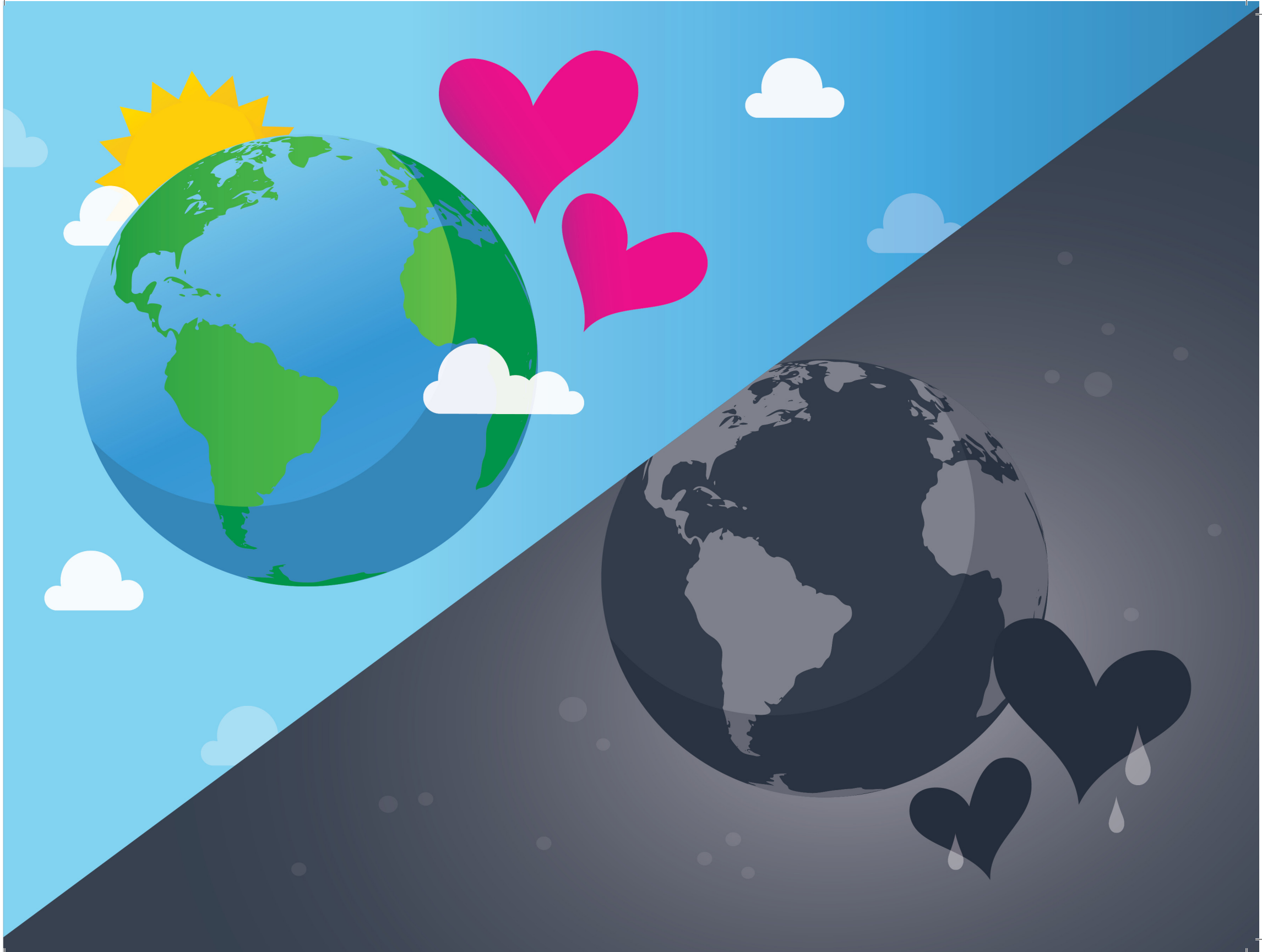












Jesus Is Born

LUKE 2:1-7



Luke 2:1–7

Jesus Is Born

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

 *Read Luke 2:7 from the Bible.*

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

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



Adam and Eve Disobey



The Angel Tells Mary



Joseph and Mary Travel



Jesus Is Born



Jesus Came to Save Sinners









Shepherds and Angels Worship Jesus

LUKE 2:8-20



Luke 2:8–20

Shepherds and Angels Worship Jesus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

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



Adam and Eve Disobey



The Angel Tells Mary



Joseph and Mary Travel



Jesus Is Born



The Angel Tells the Shepherds



Host of Angels Praising God



Shepherds Worship Jesus



Jesus Came to Save Sinners









 JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS







Wise Men Worship Jesus

MATTHEW 2:1-12



Matthew 2:1–12

Wise Men Worship Jesus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

 *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

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



Adam and
Eve Disobey



Jesus Is Born



The Angel Tells
the Shepherds



Shepherds
Worship Jesus



Wise Men
Worship Jesus



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners







 JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS







Christmas Review

LUKE 2:1-20; MATTHEW 2:1-12



Luke 2:1–20; Matthew 2:1–12

Christmas Review

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: snake, apple, nativity set

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Can you show me a sad face?

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

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

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

📖 One night, in the town of Bethlehem, baby

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

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



Adam and Eve Disobey



Jesus is Born



The Angel Tells the Shepherds



Shepherds Worship Jesus



Wise Men Worship Jesus



Jesus Came to Save Sinners







 **JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS**







Jesus in the Temple

LUKE 2:41-52



Luke 2:41–52

Jesus in the Temple

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jesus was still in the temple talking about God

Supplies: pictures of Jesus listening and His parents looking

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

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

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for wanting to talk with us!

Review Questions

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



Mary and
Joseph Look
for Jesus



Jesus Listening
to the Teachers



Mary and
Joseph Find
Jesus



God Wants to
Talk With Us







Jesus Is Baptized

MATTHEW 3:13-17



Matthew 3:13–17

Jesus Is Baptized

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: bowl of water, action figure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read Matthew 3:17 from the Bible.

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

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



Jesus Is
Baptized



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners



Jesus Is Tempted

LUKE 4:1-13



Luke 4:1–13

Jesus Is Tempted

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: stone, Bible

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

 *Read Luke 4:8 from the Bible.*

Jesus used the Bible to help Him fight sin!

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

the Bible to help Him fight sin!

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

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



Jesus Is
Tempted in the
Wilderness



God Is Good



Jesus Chooses the Twelve Disciples

MATTHEW 4:18-22, 9:9-13



Matthew 4:18–22, 9:9–13

Jesus Chooses the Twelve Disciples

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

Review Questions

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



Jesus Calls Fishermen



Jesus Calls Matthew, the Tax Collector



Jesus Teaches His Friends and Followers



Jesus Came to Save Sinners







Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

MATTHEW 14:13-21; MARK 6:30-44; LUKE 9:10-17; JOHN 6:1-14



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

Jesus Feeds 5,000 People

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

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



Jesus Teaches the Crowd



Jesus Blesses the Food



All Are Satisfied



God Is Good







Jesus Walks on Water

MARK 6:45-52



Mark 6:45–52

Jesus Walks on Water

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything!

Review Questions

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



Jesus Walks On the Water



God Is in Charge of Everything



Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

MARK 2:1-12



Mark 2:1–12

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: towel, picture

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

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

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

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

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


One day, Jesus was teaching inside of a house.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**noises, you can cover your ears. 1—2—3.
God Is Good! Everyone, sit down!**

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

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



Jesus Heals
a Lame Man



God Is Good



Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

JOHN 9



John 9

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD MADE EVERYTHING

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

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

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

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

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

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

that he could love God!

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

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

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

In those days, people thought that if someone was born blind, someone must have sinned to make them blind. **Sin is anything we say, think or do that is different than what God wants.**

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

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

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

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

After Jesus made the mud, He put it on the blind man's eyes and told him to go wash it off in a

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God for making everything.

Review Questions

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



Jesus Healing
the Man
Born Blind



Blind Man
Healed



God Made
Everything





Jesus Raises Lazarus

JOHN 11:1-44



John 11:1–44

Jesus Raises Lazarus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS IN CHARGE OF EVERYTHING

Supplies: picture of a tomb, strips of cloth

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

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

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

The disciples, Jesus’ very good friends, got to see many of the miracles that Jesus did. Remember, **a miracle is something amazing that doesn’t normally happen and shows God’s power.** The disciples saw Jesus walk on water, feed many people with only a little food, and calm a storm. Often, Jesus did miracles to show that He is God and that **God Is in Charge of Everything**—creation, sickness, and even death!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

unwrap Lazarus and to let him go!

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

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

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

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

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

Review Questions

- What is something amazing that doesn't normally happen and shows God's power called? *(A miracle)*
- Jesus had a very good friend who was sick.

What was his name? *(Lazarus)*

- Who told Jesus that Lazarus was about to die? *(Lazarus' sisters, Mary and Martha)*
- When Jesus saw how sad everyone was, what did he do? *(He wept.)*
- When Jesus came to the place where Lazarus was buried, he prayed to God. Did God hear Jesus' prayer? *(Yes!)*
- Then what happened? *(Lazarus came back to life!)*
- Who is the only One with the power to bring someone back to life? *(God!)*



Jesus Wept



Jesus Raises Lazarus



God Is in Charge of Everything





Jesus Calms a Storm

MATTHEW 8:23-27



Matthew 8:23–27

Jesus Calms a Storm

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD MADE EVERYTHING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

📖 *Read Matthew 8:27 from the Bible.*

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for being in charge of everything.

Review Questions

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



**Jesus Sleeping
in the Storm**



**Even Winds and
Sea Obey Him**



**The Peaceful
Sea**



**God Made
Everything**







Jesus Loves a Woman at a Well

JOHN 4:1-45



John 4:1–45

Jesus Loves a Woman at a Well

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Pray and thank God for sending Jesus to save sinners.

Review Questions

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



Samaria



Jesus Loves
the Woman
at the Well



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners

Samaria





Jesus Loves Children

LUKE 18:15-17



Luke 18:15–17

Jesus Loves Children

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Show the picture of Jesus with the children.)

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

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

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

Talk With Us! Everyone, sit down!

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

Review Questions

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



Disciples Stop the Children



Jesus Rebukes the Disciples



Jesus Loves the Children



God Wants to Talk With Us









Jesus Loves Zacchaeus

LUKE 19:1-10



Luke 19:1–10

Jesus Loves Zacchaeus

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

Supplies: gold coins
in a small bag

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God that Jesus Came to Save Sinners.

✝ *Have the class say the Gospel Fingerplay.*

Review Questions

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



Jesus Loves
Zacchaeus



Jesus Came to
Save Sinners



Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan

LUKE 10:25-37



Luke 10:25–37

Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD IS GOOD

Supplies: bandages, coins

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pray and thank God for being good!

Review Questions

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



Three Men
Pass by the
Hurt Man



The Samaritan
Helps the
Hurt Man



God Is Good



the priest



the Levite



the Samaritan



Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son

LUKE 15:11-24



Luke 15:11–24

Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH GOD WANTS TO TALK WITH US

Supplies: stuffed animal sheep, 10 coins, robe

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

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

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

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

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

walk on water. Jesus spent lots of time teaching people about God because Jesus is God and **God Wants to Talk with Us!** God gave many people listening to Jesus new hearts that loved and trusted Him.

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

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


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

Once, there was a father who had two sons, and the younger son asked his father to give him something very special and very valuable. He asked his father to give him everything that was going to be his after his father died.

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


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

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


 Then, the son knew what he should do. He should go back to his father's house and apologize. Let's read what he planned on doing from the Bible. *(Read Luke 15:18-19 from the Bible.)*

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

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

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

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

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

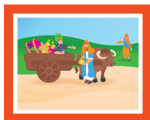
us to know Him and be with Him no matter how many bad or foolish things we've done because He loves us. **God Wants to Talk with Us**—that's why He sent Jesus.

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

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

Review Questions

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



Foolish Son Demands His Inheritance Early



Foolish Living and the Pig Farm



The Welcoming Father



God Wants to Talk With Us







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)

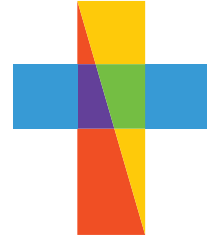
We... ..from place to place.



(walk)



**GOD
MADE
EVERYTHING**



**JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS**



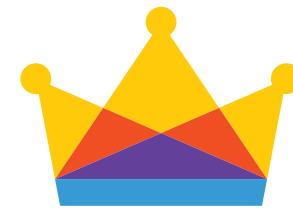
**GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US**



**GOD IS
GOOD**



**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**



**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**





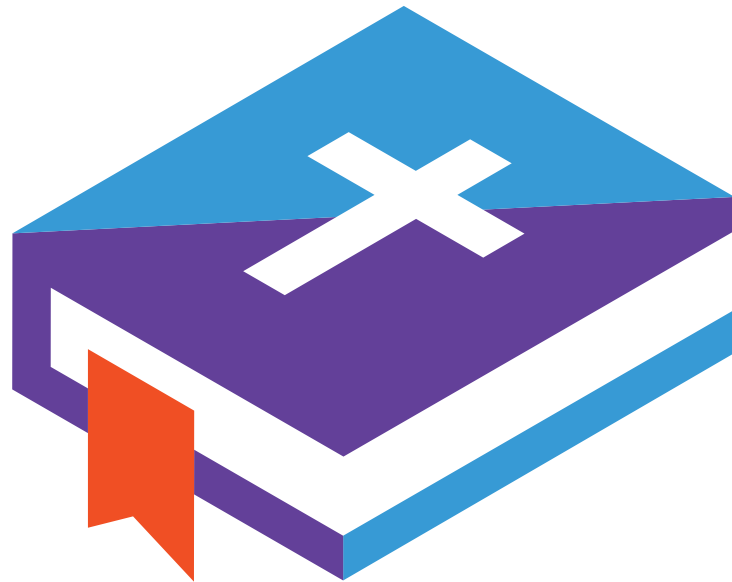
GOD
MADE
EVERYTHING





JESUS
CAME
TO SAVE
SINNERS





GOD
WANTS TO
TALK
WITH US





GOD IS
GOOD





**GOD IS IN
CHARGE OF
EVERYTHING**





**THE CHURCH
IS GOD'S
FAMILY**

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.

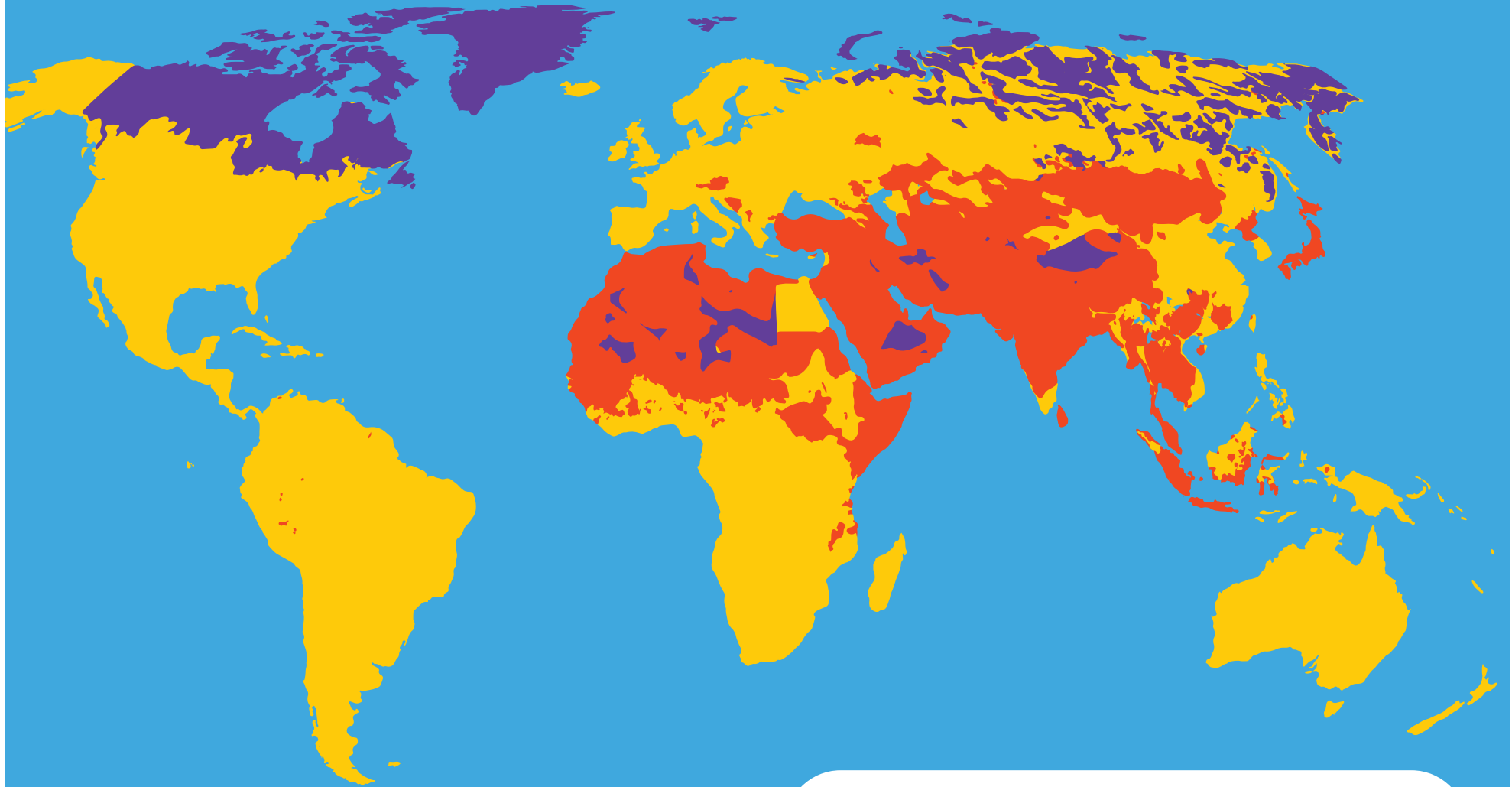
He rose from the dead.

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

