

A NOTE TO PARENTS



The curriculum we will be using this year is HE HAS SPOKEN BY HIS SON: *New Testament Stories for Young Children*. This is a chronological teaching of New Testament stories with the aim of acquainting your child with a great, big God. Each story will be told with an attempt to answer the question, “What does this say about God?” God will be presented as the main character in each story rather than Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, or Esther.

Key doctrinal themes will be emphasized such as: God can do anything, God knows everything, God is holy, man is sinful, sin must be punished, God is merciful and loving, God is sovereign (He is over all things), man needs God, faith pleases God, God is faithful, and God is unchanging.

Each child will receive a CHRONOLOGICAL COLORING BOOK OF NEW TESTAMENT STORIES containing the story title, Bible reference, and key themes, which he will be able to take home at the end of this study and keep as an ongoing review of what has been taught.

In addition, your child will be encouraged to memorize simple Bible verses called FOUNDATION VERSES. Although these will be introduced and reviewed in class, it is imperative that parents help their children learn the memory verses. This can be done simply by stating the verse a phrase at a time and asking your child to repeat each phrase. As each phrase is learned, add the next phrase until the verse has been completed. Then use the verse in everyday life. Review the verses daily so they are not forgotten. A list of verses is attached. In addition, Foundation Verses Packs are available either through the church or through Desiring God Ministries.¹ They include a picture with each verse and can easily be tucked in a pocket or purse so review can be done while waiting in the grocery line, driving in the car, waiting for an appointment, etc.

Recognizing that parents are the primary faith nurturers of their children and that the opportunity and time to nurture your child is limited in the classroom, a PARENT RESOURCE PAGE is sent home each week to inform you of the story, Scripture reference, and key themes of the lesson. Each page provides you with suggested discussion questions to assist you in reinforcing and building upon the truth presented in class. The purpose of the Parent Resource Pages is to help you and your child to interact with the Bible story and to solicit a personal response from both you and your child to the truths in the Scripture passage. This is best done if you yourself are familiar with the Bible story and have gleaned some truth from it that is meaningful to you.

The actual time with your child will probably take only a few minutes, due partly to the inability of your young child to sit still for an extended amount of time (this varies with the age of your child and his temperament). But it will be helpful to take some time to prepare for the time with your child:

1. Be familiar with the Bible story (read it yourself).
2. Glean some truth from it that is meaningful to you and understandable to your child. It is important to both stay true to the intent of the Scripture passage, and to share it from your heart.
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and your child.

The “Questions and Responses” section is intended to be a guide only. All the possible questions and responses you and your child could have to these Bible stories cannot be included in this section. Usually, only one aspect of the story has been highlighted. However there is a myriad of other truths that could be focused on as well. It is important to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in knowing which aspect of the story God wants you to focus on with your child. Because young children can be easily confused, it is recommended that your presentation of truth be very simple.

May God bless your efforts to guide your child in the truth. May he love God and become strong in faith.

¹ Available through Desiring God Ministries: www.desiringGOD.org ; 1-888-346-4700.

May you establish a testimony to your child of the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Psalm 78:2-7*
(English Standard Version Bible)

Below are the Foundation Verses that correspond to each lesson.

Lesson ✓	Foundation Verse	Lesson ✓	Foundation Verse
65	Luke 18:27	• 98	Romans 6:23
66	John 3:16	• 99	Psalm 118:24
67	Psalm 100:1-2	• 100	Review
68	Psalm 100:3	• 101	Philippians 2:14
69	Psalm 100:4	• 102	Proverbs 16:24
70	Psalm 100:5	• 103	Review
71	James 4:7-8a	• 104	Luke 6:38
72	Review	• 105	Hebrews 13:5
73	Review	• 106	Review
74	Proverbs 3:11-12	• 107	James 1:19b
75	Review	• 108	Review
76	Review	• 109	Psalm 119:10
77	1 Peter 5:7	• 110	Psalm 119:11
78	Philippians 4:11b	• 111	Review
79	Proverbs 29:11	• 112	Ephesians 6:10
80	Review	• 113	Review
81	Deuteronomy 6:5	• 114	Review
82	Leviticus 19:18b	• 115	Review
83	Philippians 2:3	• 116	Review
84	Philippians 2:4	•	
85	Proverbs 17:17	•	
86	Review	•	
87	Review	•	
88	1 Corinthians 13:4	•	
89	1 Corinthians 13:5	•	
90	1 Corinthians 13:6	•	
91	1 Corinthians 13:7	•	
92	Review	•	
93	Review	•	
94	1 Peter 5:8	•	
95	Romans 3:23	•	
96	Review	•	
97	Philippians 4:13	•	

*"Scripture quotation is from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved."

Tell the Next Generation



Story #65: God hears Zechariah's prayer and promises him a son

Scripture:

Luke 1:5-25

What does this say about God and man?

- Faith pleases God
Zechariah and Elizabeth trusted God, believed His Word, and offered sacrifices just as God had commanded Moses
- Man can come to God only according to God's will and plan
- God communicates with man
An angel told Zechariah God's plan
- God is faithful; He always does what He says He will do
He keeps His promises and fulfills His prophecies
- Jesus Christ is God
vv. 16-17, John prepares God's people for the Lord, Jesus

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God sent an angel to Zechariah to give him a message from God. Can God speak to you? Have you heard God speak to you?
- * Why should Zechariah and Elizabeth have trusted God when He promised them a son? (He is faithful; He always does what He says.) Can you trust God to be faithful for you?
- * Is there anything you need to trust God for in your life? (Pray together about it.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #66: The coming of the Savior is announced

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-80; Matthew 1:18-25

What does this say about God and man?

- God is faithful; He always does what He says
Luke 1:26-36, it was now time for God to fulfill His promises about the Deliverer
Luke 1: 57, God fulfilled His promise to Zechariah and John was born
Matthew 1:22, God fulfills all His prophecies
- God communicates with man
- God is sovereign
He chose Mary to be the mother of the Deliverer
- God is loving, merciful, and gracious
Jesus would deliver sinners from the punishment they deserved
- Jesus Christ is God
Luke 1:32, the Son of God; Luke 1:35, no human father
- Jesus Christ is man
He was Mary's son
- Jesus Christ is holy and righteous
Because He is God's Son, He did not inherit Adam's sinful nature
- God is all-powerful
Even Mary, a virgin, would have a child and Elizabeth conceived in her old age; Luke 1:37, nothing is impossible with God
- Man must have faith in order to please God and to be saved
Luke 1:38, Mary trusted in the Lord and accepted God's will for her to be the mother of the Savior
- Man is a sinner. He needs God and is helpless to save himself
Matthew 1:21
- Jesus will reign forever
Luke 1:33

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God told Joseph that Jesus would save His people from their sins. Why do we need to be saved from our sins? Can we save ourselves? (No, only God can save us.)
- * Do you have any sins you want to ask God to save you from? Pray together.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #67: Good News of Great Joy!

Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-38

What does this say about God and man?

- God keeps His promises
Luke 2:7, Jesus is born as God foretold; Luke 2:16-17, the shepherds found Jesus just as the angels had told them; Luke 2:26-28, Simeon saw Jesus as God has promised him
- God communicates with man
Angels appeared to the shepherds; Simeon's prophecy
- Jesus' coming glorifies God
- Faith pleases God
Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be circumcised and offered a sacrifice as God commanded Moses
- God's salvation in Jesus is for all peoples
Luke 2:10, 30-32
- God's salvation in Jesus is the source of great joy
Luke 2:10

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Many people were very excited and happy when Jesus was born. What made this baby more special than any other baby in the world?
- * Did Jesus come to save just a few people—maybe those who actually saw Him? (No, He came to save all who believe in Him, even those who have never seen Him.)
- * Are you happy that Jesus came to save people from their sins? (Thank God together for sending Jesus.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #68: Wise Men Worship Jesus

Scripture:
Matthew 2

What does this say about God and man?

- God is faithful; He always does what He says
vv. 6, 15, 23, prophecies fulfilled
- God is sovereign
Herod could not prevent Jesus from fulfilling God's purpose
- God communicates with man
Joseph's dreams
- God knows everything
He knew Herod's plans

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * God spoke to Joseph and the wise men in dreams. Does God speak to you? Do you listen to Him?
- * The wise men worshipped Jesus. Do you worship Jesus? Why should we worship Him?
- * Sing some worship songs together.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #69: Jesus amazes the teachers in His Father's house

Scripture:
Luke 2: 41-52

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is God
v. 49, *"My Father's house"*
- Jesus is man
v. 52, *He grew up as a man in a human body*
- Jesus is humble
v. 51, *He submitted to His parents*
- Jesus is supreme
v. 47, *His wisdom is superior to all men*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Jesus was wiser than the teachers in the temple. Would you rather learn from someone who knows a little bit about God or from someone who knows everything about God? Jesus knows God perfectly. Do you want to learn from Jesus?
- * Pray—ask Jesus to be your teacher.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #70: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

God the Father prepares the way for Jesus and shows His approval of the Son

Scripture:

Matthew 3

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
John preached God's message
- Man is a sinner
- God is faithful; God always does what He says He will do
Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in John
- Man must have faith in order to please God and be saved
vv. 5, 6, 8
- Jesus is God
vv. 3, 11, 17
- Jesus is holy and righteous
v. 17, *Jesus was perfect in God's sight*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you know what it means to confess your sins and to repent? Why did these people need to confess sins and repent? Do you have any sins to confess or anything you need to repent of? (Pray together.)
- * Who can save us from our sins? Does being baptized save us? (Only Jesus can save us from our sins.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #71: "It is written"

Jesus defeats Satan with the Word

Scripture:

Matthew 4: 1-11

What does this say about God and man?

- Satan fights against God and His will; Satan is a liar and a deceiver
- Jesus Christ is man
v. 2, He became hungry and was tempted
- Jesus Christ is God
- Jesus is holy and righteous
He did not sin; He obeyed God in everything
- Man needs God
v. 4
- God is faithful
God sent angels to minister to Jesus
- God is all-powerful and is the highest authority
Satan left when Jesus commanded him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Imagine being as hungry as Jesus was—He hadn't eaten for 40 days. You're so hungry that you're weak, and you can hardly stand it! Would you have turned the stones into bread so you could eat?
- * God's Word is more important than bread. It keeps your soul alive, while bread only keeps your body alive. We need God more than anything else. Do you love anything more than God and His Word? (Name some specific things.)
- * Pray; ask for God's grace to cause both of you to love God more than anything else.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #72: Jesus chooses His disciples

Scripture:
John 1:35-51

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus chooses those who follow Him
- Jesus is God's promised Deliverer
v. 36, the Lamb of God; v. 41, the Messiah
- God knows everything
v. 48
- Jesus is God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * John the Baptist called Jesus "the Lamb of God." What were lambs for, in the Old Testament times? (Refer to the story of the Passover and the Passover Lamb.)
- * Jesus' disciples followed Him. Do you want to follow Jesus? Discuss what it means to follow Jesus.
- * Pray that God would lead your child to saving faith.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #73: Jesus works His first miracle

Water into wine

Scripture:

John 2:1-11

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-powerful; He can do anything
- Jesus is God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If Jesus can turn plain water into wine, can He do anything? Is there **anything** He can't do?
- * Share some examples of God's power working that you have seen or heard about.
- * Jesus' disciples believed in Him when He did this miracle (see verse 11). Do you want to believe in Jesus, too? Ask God together to cause you to believe in Jesus.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #74: Zeal for His Father's house

Jesus cleanses the temple

Scripture:

John 2:13-22

What does this say about God and man?

- God hates sin because He is holy
vv. 14-16
- Sin must be punished
vv. 14-16
- God always does what He says
v. 22
- Jesus is God's promised Savior
v. 19-22

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * How does God feel about sin? (He hates sin; it makes Him angry.)
- * Do you ever sin? (Yes; everyone sins.) Talk about what sin is: valuing anything more than you value God. Perhaps share with your child some of your own struggles with sin. Make it clear that sin is not just the big, obvious things like stealing, lying, or uncontrolled anger, but also things like wanting your own way all the time, or things it can be hard to see such as when you like anything more than you love God.
- * Pray about your sins and your child's sins. Ask God to forgive them.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #75: Jesus Takes Away Sickness and Disease

Jesus Heals a Leper, a Servant, and a Mother-In-Law
Scripture:

Matthew 8:1-17

What does this say about God and man?

- God is merciful and loving
Jesus healed the sick
- Man must have faith in order to please God
v. 10
- God punishes sin
v. 12
- God is all-powerful and is the highest authority
Jesus cast out demons and healed diseases
- God keeps His promises
v. 17, *prophecy fulfilled*

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Jesus healed many people of diseases and cast out demons. Is Jesus more powerful than any disease? Is He more powerful than demons? (Yes; He has authority over all things.)
- * Since God is more powerful than anything else, is it smart to disobey Him or try to work against Him?
- * Share some other examples of God's power, authority, mercy, and love, either from the Bible or from personal experience.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #76: "Your sins are forgiven."

Jesus Heals the Body and Soul

Scripture:

Mark 2:1-12

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is the highest authority
v. 10, He can forgive sins
- Man must have faith in order to please God
v. 5
- Jesus is God
v. 7
- God is all-powerful
He can heal diseases

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * We all sin. (Discuss some personal sins.) Who can forgive sins?
- * Do you want your sins to be forgiven?
- * Pray. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins. (Be specific.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #77: Jesus calms the storm with a word

Scripture:
Mark 4:35-41

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is man
He was asleep
- Jesus is God
- God is the highest authority
- God is all-powerful
*Even the wind and the sea
obey Him*
- God is everywhere all the
time; God knows everything

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If you went outside on a very windy day and told the wind to stop blowing, would it stop? How about if I (parent) told the wind to stop blowing? How could Jesus make the wind and the wave be calm just by talking to them? (Jesus is God; everything must obey Him.)
- * Would you like to know somebody that powerful? (Talk about what it means to know God.)
- * Discuss what it means to have faith and to have no faith (see verse 40). Contrast simply knowing about God to putting your trust in Him.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #78: Jesus Shows His Power to Heal

Jesus Heals a Little Girl and a Woman

Scripture:

Mark 5:21-43

What does this say about God and man?

- Faith pleases God
 - God is all-powerful
He can heal disease and is stronger than death
 - God is the highest authority
He has authority over disease and death
 - Jesus is God
 - God knows everything
- v. 30

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If someone was sick, would they get well just by touching you? Or, if you were very sick, would you get well just by touching my (mom's or dad's) clothing?
- * Do you know anybody that, if someone died, could tell the dead person to get up, and they would get up? (If possible, demonstrate the futility of this, by killing a fly or something, and commanding it to fly away.) Do you know anybody with that much power?
- * Jesus is that strong. Jesus is God. And we do not need to be afraid of sickness, pain, or even death when we believe in Jesus (see verse 36).

Tell the Next Generation



Story #79: Jesus, the Bread of Life, provides bread for five thousand

Scripture

Mark 6:34-44; John 6:1-14, 22-35

What does this say about God and man?

- God is merciful and loving
Mark 6:34, "He had compassion on them," He provided for the needs of the crowd
- Jesus is God
- God's provision is satisfying and abundant
John 6:13; Mark 6:42-43
- God is all-powerful
He fed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish
- Man is a sinner; he needs God and cannot save himself
- Jesus is the only Savior
Jesus is more important than bread; He is bread for our souls—bread feeds physical life; Jesus gives us eternal, spiritual life
The most important thing is to believe in Jesus (John 6:29)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Take out a peanut butter sandwich and an apple, or some similar simple lunch. Ask: If you brought your lunch—a peanut butter sandwich and an apple—to _____ (the church, a baseball stadium, some large place) where there were lots and lots of people, thousands of people, and tried to feed all the people there with your lunch, could you do it?
- * How about if you shared that lunch with only 100 people? Would they get enough to eat? How about if you shared it with 10 people? Would they get enough to eat? Would there be anything left over?
- * Jesus took one person's lunch and made it enough for 5,000 people! That's many more people than can fit even into our church building—we would need maybe 5 buildings that big to fit that many people! (or use some other example to get across the point that 5,000 people is a huge number of people.) Jesus is very powerful, isn't He?
- * But Jesus said there was something even better than feeding all those people. He said He Himself was bread from heaven, and those who believe in Him will live forever. Do you want to live forever—with Jesus?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #80: The Son of God walks on water

Scripture :
Matthew 14:22-23

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is God
v. 33
- God is all-powerful
He can even walk on water
- Jesus has authority over all
- Man must have faith in order to please God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * When you play in the water in the summer, can you stand or walk on **top** of the water? Have you ever seen **anybody** do that? Can water hold people up while they're walking? (Discuss how Jesus/God is so powerful, has authority over everything, so He can even make water hold Him up while He is walking.)
- * Pray; ask God to show you in some specific way, how powerful He is (perhaps in a particular situation you are facing right now).
- * Sing a song or hymn about God's power.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #81: Jesus, Son of the Living God

*God reveals Jesus' identity to Simon Peter
Jesus is Transfigured*

Scripture:

Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 16:13-20; Matthew 17:1-8

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is man
He looked like an ordinary man
- Jesus is God
In the transfiguration, the "God" part of Jesus showed through His human body
- God is faithful; He always does what He says
Moses and Elijah knew that God's promises about the Savior would all happen in the way God had promised
- Jesus is God's promised Savior
Matthew 16:16
- God communicated with man
A voice out of the cloud

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * How bright is the sun? Can you look right at it, or is it so bright that it hurts your eyes?
- * On the mountain, Jesus' face shone as bright as the sun. That was God showing a little of His glory. Try to imagine something even brighter than the sun, brighter than a million lightbulbs. God's glory is brighter than that.
- * Do you want to see some of God's glory? Even though Jesus is not physically with us, God has ways of showing His glory to His people. Ask God to show you some of His glory this week.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #82: Love God and love your neighbor

Jesus tells a story about a good Samaritan

Scripture:

Luke 10:25-37

What does this say about God and man?

- God wants your whole being (heart, soul, and mind) to be devoted to Him
v. 27
- If we love God, we will love our neighbor
- God desires us to be merciful to those in need
- Man is a sinner

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * The Bible tells us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. What are some ways you love yourself? (Possible answers include: eat when I'm hungry, put Band-Aids® on my owies, make sure I have good toys to play with, don't like it when I'm left out of something fun, etc.)
- * What are some ways you can "love your neighbor as you love yourself"? (Use answers to the first questions to get ideas for how to love others. Try to go beyond the simplistic "share my toys" idea. If possible, get an idea on something specific to do for a particular person.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #83: The Light of the world gives light to blind eyes

Jesus heals a man blind from birth

Scripture:

John 9

What does this say about God and man?

- God is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for Him
He can give sight to the blind
- Faith pleases God
The blind man trusted Jesus
(You may also want to make the following points: *It is worse not to see who Jesus is and not to believe in Him than it is to have blind eyes; not believing in Jesus is true blindness and Jesus seeks out people to worship Him and believe in Him —vv. 35-38*)
- God is sovereign; He is in control of everything (even a man's blindness, vv.3)
- Man needs God
- Everything Jesus did was for the purpose of glorifying God

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Close your eyes. Imagine that it is dark like that all the time and you can never see your mom and dad, your baby sister, trees, snow, pretty flowers, butterflies... That would not be fun, would it? What could be worse than being blind? (NOTE: If your child is blind, you can skip this part. The purpose here is not to lament the tragedy of blindness, but to lead the child to understand the greater tragedy of spiritual blindness.)
- * There **is** something worse than being blind—lots and lots worse! Do you know what it is? If you never knew Jesus—who He is and what He's done—if you cannot "see" Jesus or believe in Him, that is far, far worse than having blind eyes. (Discuss, as the Holy Spirit leads.)
- * Pray; ask God to cause you to see Jesus and believe in Him.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #84: Jesus receives little children

Scripture:

Mark 10:13-16

What does this say about God and man?

- God's kingdom is for all kinds of people—children as well as adults
- God's kingdom is for the childlike (characterized by trust, openness, receptivity, and humility)
- God welcomes all those who come to Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * When you come to other people (to play with them or tell them something, etc.), do they always want you to be with them? Do they ever tell you, "I'm too busy to talk with you right now" or, "I don't want to play with you"?
- * Did Jesus do that to these children? Did He say, "I'm too busy" to these children? His disciples tried to send the children away - but Jesus "took them in His arms" —He held them and blessed them.
- * Do you think Jesus ever turns away those who come to Him? No, Jesus **always, always** welcomes those who come to Him for His blessing.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #85: Jesus seeks the lost

Jesus tells stories about lost sheep and lost coins

Scripture:

Luke 15:1-10

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus pursues those who belong to Him and will go to great lengths to rescue them
(See also Ezekiel 34:11-16)
- God rejoices when a sinner repents

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's pretend you are the sheep in this story, that gets lost. You wandered away, and now you can't find your way back. Then you fall into a deep hole, and you can't get out. It starts to rain, it's cold, and then you see a pack of wolves circled around the pit. Who can rescue you? Will the wolves rescue you? Can another sheep rescue you? No, only the shepherd can rescue you.
- * What is it like being apart from God? (Discuss some of the terrors in store for those apart from God, both in this life and in eternity.) It's a lot like being a lost sheep!
- * But if you belong to God, then just like the shepherd in the story, God will come after you and find you and kill the wolves and take you out of the deep hole. He will rescue you.
- * Pray; ask God to be your Shepherd and to always rescue you and come after you when you're lost.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #86: A faithful father welcomes back his lost son

Jesus tells a story about a lost son

Scripture:

Luke 15:11-32

What does this say about God and man?

- God rejoices when a sinner repents
- God forgives sin and eagerly welcomes those who repent
- Man is sinful
- God is faithful
- God loves us as a father loves his son

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's say you acted like the son in this story. You took some of your father's money and ran away and behaved foolishly. Do you think your father would welcome you back like the father in the story? (Discuss how happy parents are when their children come to them like this son did.)
- * Are there ways that people can run away from God? Discuss various ways people can "run away" from God; be sure to include things to which your child can relate and emphasize heart attitudes as well as actions.
- * Is God like the father in this story? Does He welcome those who have run away from Him and then come back to Him? (This is called repentance; God forgives sin and delights to welcome those who repent. Express how much God rejoices to do this.)
- * Have you been "running away" from God in some way? Pray together; tell God you're sorry and ask Him to welcome you back.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #87: Jesus is glorified in the raising of Lazarus

Scripture:

John 11:1-44

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign; He can use even sickness and death for His glory
v. 4
- Faith (believing in Jesus) will give you eternal life
v. 26
- Jesus is God's promised Savior
v. 27
- Jesus is the source of eternal life
v. 25
- God is the highest authority --He has authority even over death
- Believing Jesus glorifies God
v. 40
- All things work to God's glory

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Everyone will someday die. Everyone in our family, all our friends—all of us will die. (Perhaps discuss previous experiences with death; explain death, if necessary.)
- * Is it kind of scary to think about that? Does it make you feel sad?
- * Jesus said (read from John 11:25-26): *"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."* Does that mean that if you or I believe in Jesus that we won't die? No; everyone will die someday, but those who believe in Jesus, when they die, will go to heaven and live forever there with Him.
- * Should we be afraid to die? Only if we don't believe in Jesus.
- * Pray; ask God to cause you to believe in Jesus.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #88: Jesus has mercy on blind Bartimaeus

Scripture:

Luke 18:35-43; Mark 10:46-52

What does this say about God and man?

- God is merciful and loving
- God is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for Him

He can give sight to the blind

- Faith pleases God and benefits us

"Your faith has made you well." Luke 18:42

- Jesus' miracles bring glory to God

Luke 18:43

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's pretend you are sick and there's only one doctor in the world who can make you well. You see him walking down the street. This is your only chance to get well! Wouldn't you want to call out to him, "Doctor! Doctor! Please make me well!"
- * That's what Bartimaeus did. He believed Jesus could make him see, so he called out to Him. This is what Jesus called faith.
- * When we call out to Jesus, believing He is the One who can help us, that's called prayer.
- * Bartimaeus needed to be able to see. What do you need? Let's call out to Jesus and ask Him for that.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #89: Jesus comes to seek and to save Zaccheus

Scripture:

Luke 19:1-10

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus pursues those who belong to Him
vv. 7, 10
- Jesus came to save the lost
v. 10
- An encounter with Jesus brings about recognition of one's sinfulness
- True repentance is turning from sin
- Jesus changes people; Jesus is all-powerful and causes the ungodly to pursue righteousness
(See II Cor.5:17)

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you remember the story that Jesus told of the shepherd searching for the lost sheep and how we learned that God is like that shepherd?
- * Here Jesus says that He came to "seek and to save the lost" (verse 10). Who in this story was lost?
- * Zaccheus was lost. But he wasn't in a deep pit, he hadn't fallen off a cliff like a lost sheep might. How was he lost?
- * Zaccheus was apart from God and Jesus went after him.
- * Thank God that He comes after those who are lost, and thank Him that He has found you.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #90: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem

Scripture:

Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-44

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is worthy of praise from all creation

Luke 19:37-38, 40; Mark 11:9-10

- God knows everything
He knew about the colt and the destruction of Jerusalem

- Everything happens as God says it will

- God is faithful; He always does what He says

This fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9

- Jesus is King

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Many people were really happy when they saw Jesus riding on the donkey towards Jerusalem. They were so happy they couldn't help shouting! That should have made Jesus happy too, right? But the Bible says (read Luke 19:41): "And when He drew near and saw the city, he wept over it." Jesus was crying. Here all these people were shouting and praising God because of all the miracles Jesus had done—and Jesus wept! What made Him weep?
- * Jesus wept because there were so many people that did not understand who He was and what He came to do. He came from God to show His people the way to peace with God, yet many did not believe.
- * Let's ask the Lord to cause us to believe, and to cause the people we know who don't believe in Jesus, to believe in Him.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #91: Jesus is worthy to be anointed with costly perfume

Scripture:

John 12:1-8; Mark 14:3-9

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus, who is God, is more valuable than anything else in the whole world

Jesus is more valuable than this perfume, which cost a year's wages

- Jesus is worthy of our love and reverence
- Jesus knows all things

He knew the heart of Judas; He knew He would be killed

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

*(NOTE: These questions are based on the situation of the child's father working for an employer and earning wages to support the family. If your family situation is different, simply change the wording to reflect your situation, or use a different example.) When Daddy goes to work, what does he do? (Describe his job briefly.) Daddy earns money doing _____. Money buys the food we eat, pays for the house we live in, buys the clothes we wear.

- * Let's pretend we took **all** the money Daddy earned for a week, and bought only **one** thing with that money. Would it be something pretty important? How about if we took all the money he earned for four weeks and bought only one thing? How about if we took all the money Daddy earned for a whole year and bought **just one thing**? Would that one thing be something very, very important and very valuable?
- * This perfume the woman used to anoint Jesus cost all the money that someone earned in a year. It was very important and very, very valuable. If you had perfume like that, would you use it on a dog—or a doll? No, it's too valuable to use that way. Would you use the whole bottle on just one person, all at once? Only if that person was very, very important and very, very valuable to you—more important and valuable than the perfume.
- * **Jesus** is more valuable than anything else in the world. (Discuss.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #92: Jesus observes the Passover with His disciples

Scripture:

Luke 22:7-34; John 13

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus knows all things
John 13:1,3,11,38; Luke 22:13, 21, 34
- Everything happens as God says it will
John 13:8, prophecy in Psalm 41:9 is fulfilled here; Luke 22:22, the Son of man will go as it has been decreed
- God is sovereign
John 13:3
- Jesus came to serve us
John 13:12-17, Luke 22:27
- Happiness comes from serving others
John 13:17
- Jesus is supreme and the highest authority
John 13:13, Teacher and Lord
- God hates sin; sin must be punished
Luke 22:22b

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you remember the story of the first Passover in Egypt? (Discuss how God provided a way to escape His punishment through the blood of the Passover lamb. Go back to Exodus 12-13 to review the story.)
- * Read Luke 22:20. Jesus compared His blood to the blood of the Passover lamb. Jesus is like a Passover lamb for us. His blood would be shed; He would be killed; and trust in Him is God's way of providing an escape from His punishment for our sins. Our sins can be forgiven because Jesus died for us.
- * Discuss what it means to sin, to have sins forgiven, to trust (believe) in Jesus. Pray together.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #93: "Not what I will,
but what You will."

Scripture:

Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50;
John 18:1-11

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus knows all things
John 18:4
- Everything happens as God says it will; He keeps all His promises
John 18:9 fulfills what Jesus said in John 6:39, 17:2
- Jesus submitted to the Father perfectly
- Jesus suffered for us

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Do you remember the Bible verse, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right"? (Ephesians 6:1) Do you like to obey your mom and dad? Sometimes would you rather do something else than what mom and dad tell you to do? (Discuss how it is good to obey even when you don't feel like it.)
- * There is someone that it's more important to obey than mom and dad—God. Does anyone obey God all the time?
- * No one obeys God perfectly all the time—except Jesus.
- * What is Jesus praying about in the garden? God is telling Jesus it is time for Him to do something very important—people are going to come and arrest Him, and then kill Him. It's going to hurt lots and lots—more than any of your "owies" have hurt. Do you think this was easy for Jesus to do? (No, it wasn't easy, but He obeyed gladly, not grudgingly.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #94: Peter denies Jesus

Scripture:

Matthew 26:69-75; Luke 22:54-62

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful
- Because we are sinful, we need a Savior
- Jesus knows everything

Matthew 26:75, Jesus told Peter beforehand that he would deny Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Peter had been with Jesus a long time. How could he say that he did not know Jesus?
- * Is it hard to understand why Peter did that? Peter wasn't valuing Jesus most of all; he was a sinner.
- * What about us? Are we sinners—like Peter—or are we better than him? Do we always value God most of all? The Bible says we are all sinners. (Read Psalm 14:3 or Romans 3:23. Discuss what this means.)
- * Pray together; confess sins.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #95: "Let Him be crucified!"

Scripture:

Mark 15:1-15; Matthew 27:11-26

What does this say about God and man?

- Man is sinful
The crowd wanted Jesus to be killed; it is wrong to kill an innocent man
- Because we are sinful, we need a Savior
- God knows everything and always does what He says
The prophecy of Isaiah 53:7 is fulfilled as Jesus was silent before His accusers
- Jesus suffered
Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; see also Isaiah 53:3

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * What does it mean to be crucified? (If you have a cross, look at it together. Briefly describe crucifixion, making sure your child understands it was a way to execute [kill] criminals.)
- * Was Jesus a bad man? Was He a criminal? What did He do to deserve to be killed? (In the Jewish religion, it was wrong for a person to say he was God. Read Matthew 27:11 and John 14:6. Jesus claimed to be God. Since He really is God, this was not wrong, but those who did not believe in Him found a reason to kill Him because of that.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #96: "King of the Jews"

Scripture

Matthew 27:27-44; Mark 15:16-32;
Luke 23:26-38; John 19:1-22

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is the King of the Jews (God's chosen people) and of the whole world.
- Man is sinful
- Because we are sinful, we need a Savior
- Jesus suffered greatly
- God is all-powerful and the highest authority

John 19:11

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * What is a king? (Possible answers: A king rules his people; he has authority over them; he takes care of his people; he is their leader; he is the most important person in the kingdom; etc.)
- * Jesus was called "King of the Jews." (Define "Jews" if necessary.) Is He king of only the Jews? (No, He is King of all. Read or paraphrase Isaiah 49:6.)
- * Discuss crucifying the King—the One who has never sinned, who is the Son of God. Who deserves punishment? Who deserves death? Jesus? Or those who are sinners (all of us)?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #97: Jesus' last words

Scripture:

Luke 23:39-49; John 19:23-30;
Mark 15:33-41; Matthew 27:45-56

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is righteous, perfect, sinless
Luke 23:41
- Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus is God's promised Deliverer
- Jesus' death has supreme significance
The earth shook, the curtain was torn in two, darkness, etc.
- Jesus bore the punishment for the sins of all
- Jesus is the highest authority
Luke 23:42-43
- In dying, Jesus accomplished what He came to do
John 19:30, "It is finished."

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * The daddy of a little boy tells him to _____ (pick up his toys, feed the dog, etc.). If the little boy doesn't do it (disobeys), does he deserve to be punished (such as not be allowed to play with his toys for awhile)?
- * Did Jesus **deserve** the punishment of being crucified? (Read or paraphrase Luke 23:41.) No, Jesus never sinned. He is perfect, totally righteous.
- * Are we sinners? Does sin deserve punishment? (Discuss "sin" as needed. Explain that the punishment for sin is death, using Bible stories such as Genesis 6-9 as an example.) Jesus took the punishment for sin on Himself, although He Himself never sinned.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #98: Jesus' friends bury Him

Scripture:

Matthew 27:57-66; Luke 23:50-56;
John 19:38-42

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus was killed and buried
- Jesus was truly dead

He wasn't just sleeping; he was dead like any other person who has died. He would only be buried if He was truly dead

- The enemies of Jesus are enemies of God and fight against God and His purposes

The Pharisees posted a guard at the tomb and sealed the tomb with a large rock

- No one can stop God's purposes

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Jesus was dead. Can dead people get up and walk away? No, dead bodies can't do anything.
- * The Pharisees knew that Jesus said He would rise from the dead. They didn't believe He would do that, but they thought His followers might come and take away His body and try to tell people Jesus had risen from the dead. So they had someone guard the tomb, and also sealed the tomb. Do you think Jesus would rise from the dead like He said He would? Could a guard and a seal on the tomb stop Him from coming to life again?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #99: "He is risen,
as He said!"

Scripture:

John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-15

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is all-powerful; He is more powerful than death; death could not defeat Him
- Jesus rose from the dead and this is good news; it made His friends and disciples glad
Matthew 28:8, "with fear and great joy"
- Jesus always does what He says He will do
Matthew 28:6, "as he said"
- God is so powerful that all the attempts of man cannot stop God from accomplishing what He wills
The guard and the large rock sealing the tomb did not keep Jesus from rising again or from leaving the tomb

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Who is the strongest person you know? (Discuss what makes this person strong; e.g. can lift heavy things.) There are some people in the world even stronger than _____; people who can lift hundreds of pounds. But even the strongest person in the world will someday die. Can they make their bodies alive again? (No, death is stronger than even the strongest person.)
- * Jesus died. Did His body stay dead? Did somebody else come along and make Him alive? No, Jesus is God's Son, and God is stronger than death! Jesus became alive after He was dead.
- * Discuss what good news Jesus' resurrection is. Thank God for Jesus' resurrection and what it means to you.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #100: Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus

Scripture:
Luke 24:13-35

What does this say about God and man?

- Not believing that Jesus died and rose again is foolish
- Jesus is our teacher and is the best teacher of the Scriptures
- We can only see Jesus for who He really is when the Holy Spirit opens our eyes
- Being with Jesus affects our hearts and changes us

"Were not our hearts burning within us?", v.32

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * What did people use for travel before we had cars? They walked, or maybe rode on animals such as camels, donkeys, or horses. Many people in this country used horses; sometimes the horse pulled a buggy. (Describe a buggy, or show a picture.) Sometimes people put **blinders** on the horse pulling the buggy. Do you know "blinders" are? Blinders were put on the horses so they couldn't see things off to the side, but only straight in front of them.
- * Do people wear blinders? No, we don't wear blinders, although some people are blind and can't see anything at all.
- * Were the two disciples in this story blind? No, they weren't blind; they could see Jesus, but they did not recognize Him. How could they not recognize Him? Was He wearing a disguise?
- * People without God, without the Holy Spirit, are, in a way, wearing blinders. Sometimes the blinders keep us from seeing almost everything, sometimes just a little bit. But we all have them. The two disciples in this story had them: they couldn't recognize Jesus, and they did not yet believe that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- * Who can take off our blinders? Only God, the Holy Spirit.
- * Pray; ask God to remove any "blinders" you may have.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #101: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Scripture:

John 20:24-29

What does this say about God and man?

- Faith pleases God
v. 29
- God blesses those who believe in Jesus
"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"
- You do not have to physically see or touch Jesus before you can believe in Him
- Jesus desires us to believe in Him without doubting
- Jesus knows everything
He knew what Thomas said, v. 25, though He was not there

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * If a friend of yours told you that he had a dog that was bigger than our table, would you believe him? Would you think he was joking? What if you went to your friend's house and you **saw** the dog—and it really was bigger than the table! You would have to believe in that dog when you could see it and touch it!
- * Thomas did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead until he saw Him and touched Him. Then he couldn't doubt any longer!
- * But, have you seen Jesus? Can you touch Him with your hand like you can touch a dog, or a baby?
- * Remember the "blindness" we talked about last week? Some people can see and touch Jesus—and still not believe He is God. But if the Holy Spirit has removed your and my blindness, we can "see" Jesus with our spirits, and believe in Him, even when we cannot see Him with our eyes or touch Him with our hands.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #102: I. Jesus Appears by the Sea; II. Jesus Goes to Heaven

Scripture:

John 21:1-14; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus has authority over everything-- even fish
- Jesus provides for His followers even beyond what we expect
Large catch of fish, breakfast
- Jesus is God
Luke 24:52, "they worshiped Him"
- Believing in Jesus brings great joy
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His followers
Acts 1:8
- The Holy Spirit gives power
Acts 1:8
- The good news about Jesus will be told in the whole world
Acts 1:8
- God is sovereign; He alone determines and knows when an event will take place
Acts 1:7

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Where did Jesus go when He left His disciples? Up to heaven.
- * If Jesus is in heaven, it must be a wonderful place. When we die and go to heaven, we'll be so happy because Jesus is there.
- * The angel told the disciples a promise. Someday, Jesus will come back from heaven! Will you be glad to see Him?
- * The people that will be glad to see Him are the ones who love Him now, before He comes again. Do you love Him now?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #103: Power from on high

Scripture:
Acts 2

What does this say about God and man?

- The Holy Spirit is powerful
- God is sovereign and gives the Holy Spirit to whom He pleases when He pleases
- The gift of the Holy Spirit is for all those who believe
It is not just for the people in Bible times, but for all whom the Lord calls to Himself, in all lands and all times
- God keeps His promises and fulfills prophecies
vv. 16-21, fulfillment of Joel's prophecies
- God forgives the sins of those who believe in Jesus
- The work of the Holy Spirit amazes people
- Knowing Jesus and believing in Him brings about a genuine change in what you believe and what you do
This is called repentance
- When you believe in Jesus, you should be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ
- Knowing Jesus makes you happy
v. 46
- The Holy Spirit gives believers power to live and speak for God, for His Word and Truth
- Man must have faith to be saved and to please God
- Man is a sinner; he needs God and is helpless to save himself

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (Ask your child to say something.) Do you know which language you are speaking? (English.) All the words we speak are part of a language called English. (NOTE: Adjust these questions according to which language you speak or how many languages you and your child know.) How about German (or other language you and your child do not know)? Can you speak German? Do you think I can? No, I have never learned that language.
- * Now the apostles and the other followers of Jesus in this story were speaking of God's mighty deeds in other languages—languages they did not know! How could they do that? Can you or I, without taking lessons or listening to the language a lot, speak in a language we don't know? (It takes a very long time to learn a language, often years.)
The Holy Spirit caused them to speak in other languages. God knows all the languages in the world, and He could do this! (Discuss if desired.)
- * Was the Holy Spirit something that was only given on that day long ago? No, it's for all people that the Lord calls to Himself. (See verses 38-39.) Not everybody that is given the Holy Spirit will necessarily speak in unknown languages, but God will show His power in various ways.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #104: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

The Holy Spirit gives healing power and boldness to Peter and John

Scripture:

Acts 3-4:31

What does this say about God and man?

- God is merciful and loving, and so are His followers
- God is all-powerful
He can heal a lame man
- God is the highest authority
He has authority over lameness
- The miraculous work of the Holy Spirit causes people to praise God
vv. 3:8,9
- The power to heal comes from God, not from people
v. 3:12
- Jesus is God's promised Deliverer
vv. 3:22-24
- Those who do not listen to and obey Jesus will be destroyed
v. 3:23
- Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved—nothing else works
v. 4:12
- The Holy Spirit gives boldness to believers to speak of Jesus
- It is better to obey God rather than man
v. 4:19
- God deserves all praise, honor, and glory
- Jesus came to bless us by causing us to no longer be wicked
v. 3:26

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * (Discuss the incident of the lame man being healed and Peter speaking to the people.) Hey! Wait a minute! Is this **Peter** saying all these things about Jesus? Wasn't he the one that before Jesus was killed told people that he didn't even **know** Jesus? (Refer to Matthew 26:69-75 and Luke 22:54-62.) What happened to Peter?
- * Remember how the Holy Spirit caused people to speak in languages that they didn't know? The Holy Spirit does much more than that: the Holy Spirit can change people and make them speak about Jesus—like Peter. (Discuss various ways the Holy Spirit can change people; give examples of specific people, including yourself.)
- * Pray; ask the Holy Spirit to change you, too.

Tell the Next Generation



Story # 105: God punishes two who lied to Him

Scripture:

Acts 4:32-5:11

What does this say about God and man?

- God knows everything
He sees what is in your heart, the good and the bad (v. 4) and always knows when you lie and when you tell the truth
- Man cannot love money and trust God at the same time
- Because God is holy and righteous, He punishes sin
Death is the payment for sin. God punishes those who lie to Him. Those who lie to Him deserve to die
- Because God judges sin, we should fear Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Ananias and Sapphira had a secret that nobody else knew. (Discuss what they did.) Do you ever have a secret—maybe something you did, that nobody saw, or something you think that you've never told anybody? We all have secrets, sometimes.
- * But there was somebody that knew Ananias' and Sapphira's secret. (God knew, and God told Peter.) Ananias and Sapphira were trying to keep their secret, not only from Peter and the apostles; they were trying to trick God. They did not admit their secret but God knew exactly what they were doing.
- * Can you **ever** keep a secret from God? No, God always knows what you are doing. What about things you just think about? Can God see what you're thinking? Mom and Dad and other people can't see what you're thinking, but God can and does see all that we do and all that is inside us—good and bad.
- * Are there any secrets you want to tell God now? (Read I John 1:8-10; discuss and pray.)

Tell the Next Generation



Story #106: "We must obey God rather than men"

Scripture:
Acts 5:12-42

What does this say about God and man?

- The Holy Spirit can cause miracles to be worked through those who believe in Jesus
- God is all-powerful
He is stronger than prison gates (v. 19, 23)
- Obeying God is of supreme importance
It is more important than obeying men, vv. 29
- The Holy Spirit gives boldness to believers to speak about Jesus and all He has done
- God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Read the Bible verse Ephesians 6:1: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." This is something that God commands, so we know it is very important.
- * It is also important to obey leaders (read Romans 13:1), but did Peter and the apostles obey their leaders? The leaders told them not to tell people about Jesus, and they were even put into jail for doing that. They said "We must obey God rather than men." It is more important to obey God than it is to obey leaders or parents.
- * Does this mean you don't have to obey your parents, and we don't have to obey leaders? Should we say "I don't have to obey you, because you're not God?" No—but if your parents or your leaders tell you to not do something that GOD has told you to do (or vice versa), then it is more important to obey God.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #107: "Do not hold this sin against them."

Scripture:
Acts 6-7

What does this say about God and man?

- The Holy Spirit gives power for believers to serve other people
v. 6:3
- The Holy Spirit gives power to pray and preach God's Word
- God is sovereign and guides His people in ways that fulfill God's complete plan
vv. 7:1-50
- God is not confined by space; He is so big there is nothing man can make that could contain all of God
vv. 7:48-50
- Man is sinful; in his natural state he resists God's Holy Spirit repeatedly, and even religious people are prone to that sin
vv. 7:39-43, 51-53
- When we call on the Lord, He hears us
vv. 7:55-60
- Trusting God and being filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean we will not suffer
- Only God has the authority to forgive sin
v. 7:60

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * What is the best thing in the whole world? (Possible answers: Jesus, God, knowing God...) God is the greatest, the most wonderful thing in all the world. So, knowing God and trusting Him is a great thing! (Discuss.)
- * One thing God gives those who trust in Jesus is the Holy Spirit. Who in this story had the Holy Spirit? (Stephen. Read or paraphrase Acts 6:5,8.) The Holy Spirit was causing him to do wonderful things. (The Bible doesn't say exactly what he did, just that he was performing "great wonders and signs among the people.")
- * What happened to Stephen in this story? Some men stoned him (briefly describe what this means) and he was killed. (Discuss how trusting Jesus and having the Holy Spirit does not mean you will not suffer, but suffering does not take away the greatness of knowing God.)
- * Pray; ask God to give you courage and ability to trust God even when suffering.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #108: God's gifts cannot be bought with money

Scripture:
Acts: 8:2-24

What does this say about God and man?

- The power of God is greater than any other power
- The Holy Spirit can give power to heal the lame and paralyzed, and to deliver from demons
v. 7
- The Holy Spirit, or any of God's gifts, cannot be purchased with money
- You cannot love money and trust God at the same time
- When you believe in Jesus, you should be baptized
v. 12
- God gives the Holy Spirit to believers
v. 17
- God acts in response to prayer
vv. 15, 24
- Man is sinful and needs forgiveness for his sin
v. 22

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: Below are questions and responses to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage, and to solicit a personal response from both of you to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions and responses.

- * Let's pretend you want a _____ (name a toy that your child especially likes). And I said you could get it. How would you get it? Would you go to the store and ask them to just give it to you? No, you have to pay money to buy a _____. And if Mom and Dad need a _____ (chair, food, table, car), do the people in the store just **give** it to us? No, we have to pay for it with money. Even if someone gives us a gift, that person had to buy the gift with money.

What about God's gifts? Can we pay for them with money? Simon wanted the authority the apostles had—to lay hands on people and they would receive the Holy Spirit. He wanted it so much, he offered them money to get it! Can money buy a gift from God?

- * If money can't buy God's gifts, is there another way to "buy" them (deserve them)? Maybe if we act really good and nice, we will deserve God's gifts? Maybe if you always obey Mom and Dad, and share your toys? Or if I never got mad and I went to church a lot? You know what? We can never pay for God's gifts! We can never deserve them; no matter how nice and good we behave, we are never good enough to deserve God's gifts. Jesus paid for the gifts we have from God by dying on the cross for our sins. We can pay nothing: only receive God's gifts with trust and thanks.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #109: God sends Philip to guide an Ethiopian

Scripture:
Acts 8:26-40

What does this say about God and man?

- The Holy Spirit guides Jesus' followers to those who need to hear the good news about Jesus
- Jesus had to suffer to accomplish God's purpose
vv. 32-33
- God is sovereign over all things
- When you believe in Jesus, you should be baptized
- God's salvation in Jesus is for all peoples, all nations

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * The stories we read in the Old Testament (the part of the Bible that is about the time before Jesus) show us that the Lord chose the people of Israel to be His people. The people of Israel (Jews) were descendants of Abraham.
- * Jesus was an Israelite—a Jew. He suffered and died to save His people from sin (see Matthew 1:21). Did Jesus only come to save Jews? Are the descendants of Abraham the only people who are the Lord's people?
- * Where was the man that Philip talked to from? Israel? No, he was from Ethiopia. But God chose this man from Ethiopia to be one of His people.
- * (Read or paraphrase Luke 2:10,30-32.) Jesus came to save His people from sin—not Jews only, but **all** who believe in Jesus and trust Him to save them from their sins.
- * Do you want to believe in Jesus and be one of God's people?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #110: Jesus speaks to Saul

Scripture:
Acts 9:1-9

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- God is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for Him
He can blind the seeing
- Man is sinful
Saul, even though he was religious, resisted God
- Jesus pursues those who belong to Him

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * If you had a dog that you loved very much, and it ran away from you and got out of the yard, would you run after it and chase it until you got him back? Because the dog is yours, he belongs to you, and you love it, you would go after that dog and not stop until you got him in your arms.
- * But what if there was a squirrel in your yard, and that squirrel ran across the street and into another yard? Would you go after that squirrel? No, because that squirrel doesn't belong to you.
- * In this story, there is someone who belongs to Jesus, but that person doesn't even know he belongs to Him! Saul thinks Jesus is his enemy, and he was even trying to hurt the people that followed Jesus. But Jesus went after Saul, just like you would chase after your dog. (NOTE: This analogy is not perfect, because we do not have control over the runaway dog and might not ever catch it; whereas God always has control over His children and His children will never escape Him.) Jesus knocked Saul to the ground, spoke to him, and made his eyes blind; Saul couldn't run away any longer when he realized who Jesus was and that he belonged to Him.
- * Discuss various things God may do to keep us from running away from Him. Tell some things God has done to get a hold of you.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #111: Saul, a chosen instrument of God

Scripture:
Acts 9:10-19a

What does this say about God and man?

- God communicates with man
- God is all-powerful; nothing is too hard for Him
- God is sovereign; He chooses people to be His instruments
- God changes people
- Jesus is all-powerful and causes the ungodly to pursue God

He can give sight to the blind, v. 18
When someone, like Saul, sees Jesus as He really is, he is changed

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * (Have ready: a hammer, an egg beater, a screwdriver, and a pen [other items may be substituted].) If I needed to pound a nail into a board, what would I use? (Discuss what an "instrument" is [something we use to accomplish a task].)
- * God had a task to accomplish. He wanted the Gentiles and kings and Israel to know Him—to know Jesus. He was going to use an "instrument" to do this, and that instrument was Saul. He chose Saul to be His instrument.
- * Now there's a **big** difference between God and us. We both use tools or instruments to accomplish tasks. But could I pound a nail into a board without a hammer? Could I write a message on paper without a pen or pencil? I need some tool, some instrument, to do those tasks. I can't do it without an instrument. Does God **need** instruments to do what He wants done? No, God is so big and so powerful that He doesn't need any instruments. Yet He chooses people to be His instruments.
- * Do you want God to choose you to be His instrument?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #112: Paul preaches boldly in the name of the Lord

Scripture:

Acts 9:19b-31

What does this say about God and man?

- God changes people
Saul was changed, vv. 21, 26-28
- Jesus is God's promised Deliverer
"the Christ", v. 22
- The Holy Spirit gives boldness to those who believe in Jesus
Even to speak of Jesus to those who try to kill believers
v. 28
- The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to comfort, to encourage, and to help us
v. 31; see also *John 14:26*
- The Lord is to be feared
v. 31

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * Remember the runaway dog we talked about a couple weeks ago? When you catch that dog, and pick him up and bring him home, can you change that dog into a cat or a goldfish? No, he will always be a dog.
- * This story is about Saul, whom the Lord "chased" until He caught him. But the Lord not only pursues those who are His, He also changes them. No, He doesn't change them into a bunny or something like that, but He changes them from someone who denies he even knows Jesus to someone who couldn't stop talking about Jesus, even when he was thrown in jail for doing it (Peter). Or He changes someone who tries to hurt Jesus' followers to someone who tells everyone he sees about Jesus (Saul). (Give other examples.)
- * How about you and me? Do we need to be changed by Jesus? We haven't done the same things as Peter or Saul, but have we run away from God in our own way? (Everybody runs away from God; we all need to be changed by Jesus.)
- * Ask Jesus to pursue you when you run away, and to change you (be specific).

Tell the Next Generation



Story #113: God hears Cornelius' prayers

Scripture:
Acts 10

What does this say about God and man?

- Salvation in Jesus is for all peoples of all nations
vv. 34-35
- The gift of the Holy Spirit is for all who believe
vv. 44-45; See also Acts 2:39
- Those who believe in Jesus should be baptized
- Everyone who believes in Jesus has their sins forgiven
v. 43
- Jesus is the only means of salvation
- The Holy Spirit can guide believers very specifically
Cornelius and angel, Peter and vision
- God alone is to be worshipped
vv. 25-26
- God hears us when we pray

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * If you have a special friend coming over to your house to play with you, what do you do when they arrive? Do you turn away and act as if they are not here? No, you would greet them, show them you're glad to see them, invite them in, and do something fun with them. That's called **welcoming** them; it's accepting them into your home.
- * Does God welcome anybody? (Read Acts 10:34-35.) Whom does God welcome or accept? (Discuss what it means to fear God and do what is right, noting that doing what is right is not working to earn God's favor, but is rooted in trust in God.)
- * Some people in Peter's time thought that God only accepted or welcomed Israelites, but God does not accept people that are only from a certain country or are born into a certain family. He accepts those who have faith in Him.
- * Do you have faith in God? Do you want God to accept you?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #114: The Lord sends an angel to rescue Peter

Scripture:
Acts 12:1-19

What does this say about God and man?

- God is sovereign
He is in control of all circumstances whether death (v. 2) or deliverance from prison
- All circumstances bring glory to God, though in different ways
- Believing in Jesus does not mean believers will not suffer
James killed, v. 2; Peter imprisoned, v. 3
- God is all-powerful; He is stronger than chains and prison walls
- God responds to prayer
vv. 5, 11-12

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * (Go to a locked door that needs a key to unlock it. Do not unlock it.) Let's go outside. (Try to open the door.) What's the matter? Why doesn't this door open? (Wait.) Oh! I need to unlock the door with a key! (Take key out, unlock the door, and open it.)
- * Jails are locked up, too. The doors are much stronger than this door, and harder to open. The prisoners don't have the keys, so they can't get out of jail.
- * Peter was a prisoner in jail. He was inside some locked doors, and he also had two chains locked on him. His friends were praying to God that God would somehow rescue Peter. Could God get Peter out of jail? Did God have the keys to the jail?
- * God didn't have the keys, but He is stronger than any locked doors or chains. Chains, locked doors, and prison guards could not stop God from rescuing Peter.

Tell the Next Generation



Story #115: God saves a jailer

Scripture:

Acts 16:16-34

What does this say about God and man?

- Jesus is the highest authority; He has authority over demons
v. 17
- Jesus is all-powerful
He is stronger than prison doors and prison chains, v. 26
- The only way to be saved (saved from God's wrath) is by believing in the Lord Jesus
v. 31
- Those who believe in Jesus should be baptized
- Believing in God brings great joy
v. 34

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * What are jails for? (People that break laws are locked up in jail. They can't get out unless the person with the keys (the jailer) unlocks the doors and lets them out.)
- * Is jail a fun place to be? Do you think Paul and Silas were feeling pretty good, after having been beaten and now sitting in jail with their feet in the stocks (describe what stocks are)?
- * It's no fun being in jail, but there is something worse than being a prisoner in jail. Not knowing Jesus is worse. Jesus came to save us from our sins. Our sins can be like a jail keeping us captive, and only Jesus can unlock the prison doors and set us free. Paul and Silas knew Jesus. No matter what other people did to hurt them, Jesus could not be taken away from them. That's why they could sing praise to God even after being beaten and locked up in jail.
- * The jailer in this story had the keys to the jail that Paul and Silas were in, but he found out that he was in a far worse jail than Paul and Silas—the prison of sin. But he believed in Jesus, and Jesus set him free.
- * Do you want to be free from sin, like Paul and Silas and the jailer?

Tell the Next Generation



Story #116: "The dwelling place of God is with man ...Come, Lord Jesus!"

Scripture:
Revelation 21-22

What does this say about God and man?

- God will make a new heaven and a new earth
- God himself shall live with men
v. 21:3
- In heaven there will be no pain or death
v. 21:4
- God gives life to those who desire it (who thirst) without them having to pay for it
vv. 21:6; 22:17
- God punishes sin; the just punishment for sin is death
v. 21:8
- God is glorious; the light He gives is brighter than the sun
v. 21:23
- Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will be in heaven
v. 21:27
- Life comes from God
v. 22:12
- Jesus will come again, this time to judge everyone
v. 22:13
- God always does what He says
"These words are trustworthy and true..."
v. 22:6
- God is all in all; He is the beginning of all and the end of all
v. 21:6, 22:13

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES: to help you and your child interact with the Scripture passage and to solicit a personal response, from both of you, to the truths of the Bible story. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to further questions, and responses.

- * Have you ever gotten hurt (physically or emotionally)? Has anyone you loved ever died? Have you ever been sick with an earache (or something else that hurts badly)? (Discuss various sufferings and painful things we can go through; be sure to go beyond scraped knees and sniffly noses.)
- * What will heaven be like? (Read Revelation 12:3-4.) No more pain, or death, or crying! (Discuss how wonderful that will be.)
- * Who will be in heaven? What do we have to do to get to heaven? Do we have to pay someone to get into heaven, like we pay someone to _____ (go to the State Fair, ride at the amusement park, etc.) (Read Revelation 22:17.) *"Let the one who is thirsty, come."* Have you ever been thirsty? Do you remember how good a glass of cold water tastes when you're very thirsty? Does this mean that those who get thirsty for a drink of water or juice will get into heaven? No, those who are thirsty for God—those who **want Jesus**—will go to heaven. (Discuss as much as you want to about heaven, God being with us, etc.) And we do not have to pay someone money to get into heaven. It's free!
- * Are you thirsty for Jesus? Do you want to be with Him forever?