



Knowing God for Kids

A Chronological Study of the Bible Revealing God's Character



Title: This will be the name of the lesson.

Purpose: In this section it will lay out what the focus of the lesson will be, and what the children will be learning about/ should be grasping. This will be where the teacher is taught about the lesson so that they can relate it to the children. The hope is that churches will meet before Sunday School and talk about the lesson ahead of time to ensure that the teachers have a knowledge of the material. It's an opportunity for the church to teach teachers Knowing God and how it relates back to the lessons in Knowing God.

Scripture: This is where any scripture references used will be put for the teacher to refer to. This way it can be read ahead of time and be ready for use later.

Materials: This is where it will let you know of any materials you will need for the lesson.

Lesson: This will be what the teacher actually teaches to the children. There will be some different techniques to keep kids interested in what is taught and to drive home the point.

Activity: This is where a craft, game, or skit will be that will relate back to the story being told.

For the Parents: In this section there will be given material that the children take home to their parents. It will go over what the child was taught and give the parents something to do with the child at home to further drive home what they were taught in class. This is also a way to connect with parents who may not be attending church, but their child is.

I wanted to take a moment and say thank you to a couple people who helped make this happen. First off to Lauryl for her illustrations that she drew for this book.

Second to Allisa and Jenifer for your help in editing the material once it was written.

Third to my faithful husband Steven who went through the work editing spelling and grammar.

Fourth to Sarah who helped put the book together.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this project.

I wanted to also thank God for this great opportunity and a chance to really learn as I worked on this project. There were times that I had a bad headache and felt God with me as I typed helping to really focus on the material. My hope is that this material will also teach your children who God is and what He has done for them, about His plan and not mans. Thank you for the opportunity to write this and I would love any feedback you have, good or bad.

Eleisha

Lesson1

The Beginning:

Purpose: In this lesson we will be talking about chronological Bible study and why it's important. We will also be talking about God, His plan from the beginning and who God is. At the end of the lesson the children should be able to explain why it's important to start to read the Bible from the beginning and will help them to start to look for what God is doing in each of the Bible stories. This lesson will be taking material from Knowing God Lessons 1 and 2.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:9-10, 2 Timothy 3:16, Psalm 14:1, Genesis 1:1

Materials: Choose your favorite Bible story from when you were a child. Select a book to read to the children. It can be anything you like as you will only be reading a few sentences from it. Just make sure it's child appropriate. A Bible. You will also need a small object that children can pass around. It can be a stick, a rock etc.

Lesson: Start the lesson by asking the children what some of their favorite Bible stories are and why. Ask them who their favorite character is in the Bible story. Some children may not answer and that is okay. If no one answers, pick out a Bible story that you remember from your childhood that you really enjoyed and talk about the characters in the story.

Take the book you selected and inform the children that you will be reading them a story. Instead of reading from the beginning of the book, start reading from the middle of the book. Do this for a few minutes and stop. The children should be confused as to why you are reading from the middle of the book. Ask them if they understand the story so far. Ask them why they are confused about the story. (They should be able to answer that you didn't start at the beginning but in the middle of the story).

Ask them why it is wrong to start the story in the middle and not at the beginning. Allow time for answers.

Hold up your Bible and explain that this is God's story. A lot of people like to take God's story and start in the middle when we should be starting in the beginning. When we start in the middle of God's story, we miss the whole story that God wants us to see. We get bits and pieces of the story and see things through the eyes of people in the story but not the whole picture of what God is doing. We see people in our favorite Bible stories doing heroic things and leave God's big picture out of it. The stories in the Bible should be viewed as a continuous story that God tells, not as a bunch of different stories about our heroes of faith or examples that we must follow to improve ourselves. Many people get confused reading the Bible like we did with our story because like us they start in the middle of God's story and not at the beginning. They also get confused about who the Bible is written about.

Ask the children: Who is the main character of the Bible? (Allow for answers)

God is the main character of the Bible. We as believers tend to focus on the people in the story and what they are doing or struggling with. We seem to not notice what God is doing in

the Bible. God wrote the Bible; He chose what was to be put in it and who would help write it.

Ask the children: Who is God to you? Allow time for discussion. There may be some wrong answers but remember they may have a wrong view of God because they don't know Him. With these lessons we hope to build a foundation on which these children can learn who God is and come to know Him.

Ask: Did you know that some people may have a wrong view of God and who He is? What do you think some of those wrong views are? (Allow for Answers.)

Say: For the next couple minutes, we are going to talk about some facts about who God is.

1. He is a communicator. Can anyone tell me what that means? (If no one knows the answer, explain to them that a communicator is someone who likes to talk to us and tell us things.) Hold up the Bible and explain that God is the one who wrote this book. He did it through different people, but they all tell us what God wants us to know. God tells us His story and His plan for us in the Bible. Give out a card that has 2 Timothy 3:16 written on it. Have a child read it to the class. If the age group is too young to read for you, read it and ask a child to hold it for you once you are done reading.

2. God is eternal. This means that God has been around forever. He was there before creation and will always be there. He was not created like you and me. He has no beginning or end. Hand out a note card with Psalm 14:1 and have a child read it. If they can't read then read it and have a child hold it for you when you are done reading.

3. God is a creator and provider. He created everything you see including you and me. He provided everything we needed before we even knew we would need it. Hand out a note card that has Genesis 1:1 on it and have a child read. If children can't read, you read it and give it to a child to hold.

4. God is omnipresent. This means He is everywhere. We can't be here and be in another country at the same time. But God can. He is not limited like you and me. He is powerful, He knows everything about you and anybody who ever existed. Hand out a notecard with Psalm 139:7-12 on it. Have a child read it, if no one can read you read it and hand it to a child to hold.

5. God is interested in relationships. Before God created anything He had a plan for us to be in relationship with Him. He desires for us to know Him. Have John 17: 20-26 on a note card and hand it to a child to read. If no children can read, read it, and give it to a child to hold.

As we go through this study, we are going to learn about who God is. We will see that God desires us to know Him.

Activity: For this game bring out an object that the children can pass around. We are going to play a game that helps us to get to know each other better. Ask the children to think of a piece of information that they want to learn about their fellow students. Give the object to the first child. Have them ask a question to the group. For example: What is your favorite animal? The child holding the stone then can call on a few people. After a few minutes or if no one else wants to answer the question, have the child pass the object to the left or right. Do this until all children have had a chance to hold and ask a question.

For the parents: Isaiah 45:5 is the memory verse. Have the children memorize this verse. When they come next time, have them recite it. When they go home, have them ask their parents to look up the different attributes of God that they can find and write them down. Have the parents discuss them with the children.

Lesson 2

The Spirit World

Purpose: In this section we will be bringing out what the spirit world is. The material for this lesson is taken from Knowing God Lesson 3.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:9, Job 38:4-7

Materials: You will need paper, and something to draw with.

Lesson:

Before God started to create the world, He made special beings to help carry out His plan that He had from the beginning of time. Read 2 Timothy 1:9. God had a plan before the foundation of the world. Does anyone know what that is? God had a plan of redemption for people before He even created it. That means that God wanted to save us from our sins. God had this plan because He loved us and wanted us to be in relationship with Him, not just someone who obeys His every command. Today we are going to look at the beginning of that plan.

Say: Today we are going to look at the creation of the angels. What is an angel? Who are they? Do you think they have a special job? (Allow time for children to answer)

Before God spoke light into creation, He made some special helpers called angels.

Read Job 38:4-7. In this passage the term sons of God refer to the angels. God tells us that angels were present while He was creating. They got to witness God's love, power, and grace from the beginning. They watched as God spoke everything into existence. They watched as God declared everything He made as good. They got the special privilege of getting to experience God's heart and love He had as He created and got to know Him.

Let's take a look around the room at ourselves. How many differences do you see in the people around the room? Allow children to list out the differences they see in each other. Do not let it become an opportunity for bullying but a chance for us to appreciate God's creation.

Say: Just like us God created angels to be different. There are different types of angels with different types of abilities. Let's take a look at this.

Angels are God's special messengers and servants. The word angel actually means messenger. They were created just like the rest of creation was. They were spoken into existence by God. They have a beginning. They are not like God in that they cannot be everywhere at the same time. They can only be in one place at one time. Just like us. We cannot be both standing here and be at home at the same time like God can. He is not limited like us by time or space.

Activity: Hand out paper and crayons or something to draw with. Have the children take a little bit to draw a picture. Once they are done ask them who owns this picture. Ask them why they own this picture. Just like they created this drawing, so God created the angels and that is why God owns them. They respond to God's commands and wishes because He is their owner. They can do nothing without God giving them permission to do it.

God is Holy and cannot create anything evil. Anything He does is perfect. He did not create the angels to be evil, but He knew how they would turn out before He created them, like He knows that with us. When He spoke them into creation they were made perfect and blameless. As we go through the lessons, we will learn more about an angel named Lucifer who would later be known as Satan, and his fallen angels we call demons.

Parents: Take some time and go through the Bible and discover how angels are used by God and discuss this with your child. There are many different types of angels in the Bible. For example, they can look up the angel going to Mary, or Jacob wrestling with an angel.

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:9

Lesson 3

Creation

Purpose: In this lesson the children will be learning about how God created everything. The materials for the lesson come from Knowing God Lesson 4. We will be using the Creative Bible Storying method to bring the days of creation alive and to show how God planned everything. They will learn that God was in the beginning, and it was He who planned out everything in creation even down to the smallest details. We as humans had no hand in it. The universe and all it contains was not just brought into existence by accident. It was wonderfully and beautifully created by a God who loves us and knows our needs before we even came into existence.

Scripture Used: Genesis 1:1-25

Materials: Have pictures of the different days of creation ready and covered with numbers on them corresponding to the days of creation. As you tell the story, uncover the pictures. This will give a visual and keep them engaged. You can either memorize Genesis 1:1-25 or read from the Bible. If you choose to memorize, make sure to use a child friendly version. Make sure to have space under the pictures to write as you go. *See pages 103-109 for creation illustrations to use as teaching materials.*

Lesson:

Day 1: Read or recite Genesis 1:1-3. Take page 1 cover off. Give the children a few seconds to look at the picture. Read verses 3-5 and write under the picture “God said it was good”.

Day 2: Read or recite Genesis 1:6-7. Show picture 2. Let the children look at the picture for a minute and recite verse 8. Write “God said it was good” under the picture.

Day 3: Read or recite Genesis 1:9. Show picture 3. Allow a few minutes for children to look. Read verse 10. Write “God said it was good” under the picture. Read or recite verse 11. Show picture 4. Let the children take in the picture for a minute. Read or recite verses 12-13. Write “God said it was good” under the picture.

Day 4: Read or recite Genesis 1:14-15. Show picture 5. Allow time for children to take in the picture. Read or recite verses 16-19. Write “God said it was good” under the picture.

Day 5: Read or recite Genesis 1:20. Show picture 6. Allow time for children to view the picture. Read or recite verses 21-23. Write under the picture “God said it was good”.

Day 6: Read or recite verse 24. Show picture 7. Pause and allow time for children to view the picture. Read or recite verse 25. Write under the picture “God said it was good”.

Say: Let's take a look at what we just heard and saw. Ask the children: Who was in the beginning? Allow time for answers. Ask: What did God do in this story? Allow time for answers.

Say: God is eternal and has no beginning or end, but we can see that the world we live in does have a beginning and an end. It is comforting to know that God has always been there and will never have an end. He was here before creation was brought into existence. God had a

plan from the beginning and is carrying out that plan to this day. None of creation was brought into existence by mistake. It was all wonderfully and lovingly brought about by God in His plan.

Let's take a look at the days of creation and learn a little bit about each day as God's plan for creation unfolded:

Day 1: Point to picture 1. God spoke light into existence. Did He use anything besides His word to create light? Read vs 3 again if they don't remember. Isn't it cool that God can just speak and it happens? He didn't need anything but His word to make it happen. What did God say about the light? Point to the words under the picture if they don't understand. Light is something we all need. Without it we cannot live. God knew this and gave us light. God then made day and night. That's why we have daytime and nighttime now. God gave us day to work and night to rest.

Day 2: God made the sky and separated it from the earth. This gave us air to breathe and a sky to look up at. It is what we call atmosphere. God knew we would need good air to breathe. God spoke and it came to be. When God was done creating it, He told us that it was? Allow time to answer.

Day 3: What did God create on the third day? Allow time for answers and point to the picture for reference. He created land, trees, and flowers. He knew we would need someplace to live and things to eat. Let me ask you a question. Can you name every type of tree, flower, or vegetable we have in the world today? (If they say yes, ask them to recite all of the names and tell them they are missing a lot more than they named) No?! Why can't you? That's right. God made so many different types of trees, flowers, and plants that we could never name them all. There is still vegetation being discovered by us today. God created so many different types of trees, flowers, and veggies for us to enjoy that we cannot even name them all. He spoke all that into existence and He said what about it? Allow time to answer. Exactly right, He said it was good.

Day 4: So, what did God create on day 4? Allow time for answers. How many stars do you think there are? Allow them time to guess a number. There are too many to count. People are still to this day making new discoveries of planets, stars, and galaxies. God created so many that it's impossible for us to number. We also see that God made order in the universe. Each planet follows a path around the sun and does not collide with one another. The moon circles our Earth producing tides and giving us light at night, as our planet circles the sun creating seasons, days, years, and time for us. He gave us a sun to give us light and warmth which helps us, and the plants grow. All of this was planned by God for what we would need. It didn't happen by accident but was spoken into existence by a loving God. What did God have to say about all of that? He said it was good!

Day 5: Who here likes to go fishing? Who here likes to look at birds? Did you know that God created so many different kinds of birds and fish that we are still discovering them as well? He spoke and they all came into existence. The fish live in our seas, rivers, and streams and provide food for both us and animals. Some are beautiful to look at. The same is true of the birds who live in the sky. Some provide food and others fly through the sky reminding us of how magnificent their creator is. God spoke them into existence and He said that they were? That's right, good.

Day 6: What happened on day 6? God made all the animals, including bugs. What is your favorite animal? Allow time for answers. Ask: How did the animals come to be? Read vs 24 again if they do not know. God spoke and they came into existence. He made some to be wild, some to be our friends, and some He created to be our helpers. What did God say about all these animals? That's right, He said they were good.

Looking at all this do you realize what God did? He spoke and things came into existence. He set up a world that we as humans can live and grow in. He made the light, the air, the water, land, food, the sun, the moon, birds, fish, animals, all just for us. Everything we would need to survive on this planet, God provided. We didn't tell God what we needed; we didn't have to. God knew and provided for us what we needed. So, wait I didn't mention that God created man anywhere in our story today, did I? This is so special that we will be taking another lesson to talk about that. We will hear more of God's plan and story in the following weeks.

Activity: Have the children draw their favorite day of creation and talk about it.

For the Parents: Have the children memorize Genesis 1:1 with their parents to recite for you at the next meeting. Have a printout of the days of creation for the children to take home. The parents can cut up the pictures and have the children put the days of creation in order and talk about what they learned about each day. (I will have a handout included with the book with instructions)

Lesson 4

God Created Adam

Purpose: We will be taking an in-depth look at the creation of Adam. We will be talking about how God created us to be relational with Him and not an obedient object. The material for this lesson is taken from Knowing God Lesson 5.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2

Materials: You will need to bring in a couple toys.

Lesson: Have the toys in a spot that all children can see. Once all the children are seated and paying attention, start giving commands to the different toys. Try to have a conversation with them. Turn to the children and ask what is wrong with these toys? Why are they not listening to me? (Allow time for the children to answer) These toys were created by someone, but they were not created like you and me. Did you know that God created us so that we are not like these toys but to be able to have a relationship with Him? Today we are going to take a look at that.

Remember back to the last lesson where God created everything? He created it and called it good. God created everything that Adam and Eve would need before He created them. He knew what they would need and made it for them.

Let's think back to when you were a baby. Did you have any say in what you wore? Did you have any say in what your room looked like? How about food? No, right? Your parents provided everything you needed before you came into this world. They knew what you would need and provided it. God did the same for Adam and Eve and all who would be born after them. This was all so God's plan for us could be carried out. He shows us that we can trust Him to provide for us both physically and spiritually.

Read Genesis 1:26

The "let Us" in what we just read refers to the Trinity. The Trinity is God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. All three are God but are different ways God appears. All three were there in the beginning. God created man in His image. He put them in charge over all creation. But wait, I am confused. What do you think it means to be created in God's image? (Give children a chance to answer. There will be some wrong answers but that's okay) Let's take a look at what it means to be created in God's image.

It's not our physical body that is created in the image of God. We all look different from each other, so it cannot be that.

What do you think we have that animals do not have? (Allow for answers)

A spirit and a soul! That is what is created in God's image. Animals do not have that, but God gave us that. He also gave us a mind to reason with and think with. Why do you think that is? Why did God give us a mind, soul, and a spirit? (Allow for answers) It's because God wanted us to have a relationship with Him!

God also gave us emotions. God has emotions just like we do. He loves, hates, feels anger and joy. Without these we could not have a relationship with God. Isn't it wonderful that God gave us these so that we have that ability?

God also gave us a will. What do you think a will is? (Allow time for answers) It is our ability to make choices. Like God we have the ability to make choices. We can choose what we like to eat, what we like to wear. We can choose to obey our parents or not to.

All these things God gave us so that we can choose to have a relationship with Him. Without these things we would be like our toys here. They don't get to feel or make choices. We make them do things ourselves. They can't follow instructions or love us back. God didn't want us to be like a toy. God wanted us to be like Him and have the ability to have a relationship.

God created the first man and first woman. When God created before, He spoke, and it happened. What do you think God did this time? (Allow time for answers)

Read Genesis 2:7

God took the time to form Adam. He didn't just speak, and Adam appeared like the animals. He lovingly took the time to form Adam and then God breathed into Him the breath of life. Only God can give life to things. We can create like God, but we cannot make our toys or creations come to life. These (point to toys) are lifeless. God gave us life. It's amazing how God made us so special. He loves us and desires our friendship with Him.

In our next lesson we will take a look at how God created Eve. He made her in a special way, too.

Memory Verse: Genesis 1:27

Parents: Have the children ask their parents how they prepared for them to be born. What did they need to do to be ready?

Lesson 5
Adam Names the animals and the Creation of Eve

Purpose: This is taken from Knowing God Lessons 6 and 7

Scripture: Genesis 2:15-28, Ephesians 4:18, Genesis 3:19, Revelation 20:15

Material: Have a half-finished picture drawn or use the one in the book.

Lesson: Have a drawing ready that is half finished. Once the children are all in, have them look at it and ask them what they think of your beautiful artwork. Ask them what is wrong with it. (Allow time for answers) Sometimes we start something and don't finish it, but God always finishes what He starts. God finished making everything and He rested on the 7th day. Why do you think He did that? (Allow time for answers). God did not rest because He was tired. God rested because this shows us that God was happy with His creation and everything was done. He had created everything we would need, and He wanted. God's plan was starting, the plan that He had before He even started creating. This was His plan of redemption. This is the beginning of His plan, and we will learn more as we learn more of God.

Now God had created a beautiful garden for Adam and Eve. It was everything they would need. What did Adam and Eve do to deserve God doing this for them, providing everything they would need before He created them? (Allow time for answers) Nothing! They did nothing to deserve what God did for them. God loved them and provided for them. Just like your parents or the people who take care of you provide for you.

Let's look a little more at Adam and Eve. Adam was created before Eve. When God placed Adam in the garden, He gave him instructions.

Read Genesis 2:15-17

There were two trees in the Garden of Eden that God planted. One was The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The second was The Tree of Life. The Tree of Life will come into play at the end of our story. For this lesson we will be talking about The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

In what we read in Genesis what did God tell Adam? (Allow time for answers)

- Don't eat of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil!

What did God say would happen if Adam did eat from it?

What do you think that means? (Allow time for answers)

Let's take a look at what that means. There are three things it means when God tells Adam he will surely die.

1. Separation from God spiritually. This means we go from friend of God to enemy of God. That doesn't sound good. The part of us created in the image of God would become corrupted (corrupted means a bad change has taken place in who we are and how we act) and separate from God. If you remember back to the previous lesson, the

image of God was our soul, spirit, will, and emotions. This would break our relationship with God. Ephesians 4:18

2. They would die physically. Many of us have lost someone in our lives. This is part of what would happen if they ate from the tree. If we cut a branch off from a tree it is still alive, but is slowly dying, and will die eventually. Genesis 3:19
3. Eternal death. Wow, that sounds scary. What does this mean? This is being separated from God forever. Adam and those who came after would never be able to experience the closeness of God or the friendship with Him that Adam now had. We would be under God's judgement without any hope. Revelation 20:15

God gave Adam a choice, but let's continue on with our story and see what he chooses. Remember though, this is all in God's plan and God knows what Adam will choose. He knew from the foundation of the world and His plan is to bring about redemption and to bring us into relationship with Him. He wants us to know Him, but He also wants us to have the choice and not be like robots who have to obey.

At this point Adam was the only person alive. He had animals for company, but no other people. He must have been lonely, right?

Can you remember back to how God created Adam? (Allow time for answers) How about the animals? We are going to take a look at how God created Eve, but first we need to look at the special task that God gave Adam. Anyone know what that is?

Read Genesis 2:18-20

God had Adam name all the animals. What a big task, right? By doing this, God showed Adam his need for a helper was not found in the animals. Adam needed something else, and like always, God knew what Adam needed.

Read Genesis 2:21-23

God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. He took from Adam one of Adam's ribs and formed Eve. Adam needed someone else who was formed in God's image. He needed someone he could talk with and have a relationship with. Adam couldn't fill his own need, but God did. God created Eve so that Adam would have a friend and companion to fulfill God's command.

Read Genesis 1:28

God gave them a responsibility. He told them to manage, rule, and fill the earth.

Adam and Eve were perfect and without sin. They were naked but not ashamed of it. God gave them everything they needed. We can trust Him to do the same for us today. God always finishes what He starts.

Activity: Have the children pair up in teams of two or three. Set up a starting line and a finish line. Have the teams line up at the starting line. One person is the robot. The other two are the operators of the robot. The operators are the only ones who can move the person who is the robot's arms and legs. The robot is totally dependent on the operators to get them to the finish line. The first operator who gets their robot across the finish line wins.

After this, have the children draw what they think a robot looks like and talk with them how different it is from us.

Parents: Talk with your kids about how you knew what you would need to provide for them. Talk to them about how you prepared for their coming. What plans you made so that you knew you had everything prepared and ready for their arrival. If you have pictures, show them some of the pictures you have of getting ready for them to arrive. Read through the creation story and talk about how God got everything ready for Adam and Eve to come.

Lesson 6 **Satan's Fall**

Purpose: This will be taking material from Lesson 8 in Knowing God. We will be taking a look at the story of Lucifer and how created things are not greater than He who created them.

Scripture: None read in this Lesson

Material: Pipe cleaner or something the children can use to make something with. Bring an item that you own to class. Drawing materials

Lessons:

Have an item that you own sitting out on the table and ask the children who owns the item. How do we know that it is my item? Can this item decide that it is no longer owned by me? Today we are going to hear about a created being who thought that they could decide they were bigger than their creator.

We are going to take a look back at the angels for this story. In fact, we are going to look at one angel's story in particular. Can anyone guess who we may be looking at? (Allow time for answers) Lucifer! Let's take a look at his story and how it unfolds.

Lucifer was created just like the other angels. He was perfect and blameless. He was designed with a role and a purpose and had great wisdom. Lucifer was given power and authority over the other angels, and this position brought him close to the throne of God.

Like the other angels Lucifer was created with free will and could make decisions. He had everything, power, authority, and even beauty. That didn't seem to be enough for Lucifer though. What do you think he desired? (Allow for answers)

He wanted to be God and take God's place. There is only one problem with that. Only God can be God. A created being can't take the place of its creator. Think of someone who works with clay. They make a pot to be used to hold water. The pot then decides that it knows best and tells the potter, I do not want to hold water. I want to be used to baking cakes. The potter knows that if the pot is used to bake cakes, it will break. The creator knows best what is best for its creation.

Lucifer rebelled and tried to take God's place. He wanted things his way. Lucifer was the first to sin in all of creation. He let his pride rule in his heart instead of God. He not only rebelled himself but got other angels to join with him and agree with him. Do you think that God was threatened by this? No. God knew what Lucifer was thinking and planning. Nothing can be kept from God. He knows and sees everything. He knew before He created the angels or even anything at all what Lucifer was going to do. Lucifer didn't stand a chance at taking God's place.

God took away Lucifer and the other rebellious angels' positions and power. God removed them from heaven and cast them to the Earth. God cannot allow sin to be around Him. He sent them away from Himself. These angels have become known as Satan, or the Devil, and his demons. They are angry at God and do not like anything that is God's or was created by God. Satan has declared war on God's creation, but God is victorious and more powerful than any created being. Think of an ant deciding to declare it was going to fight with you. Who do you think would win? Why? Does the ant have any chance of winning? You are bigger and more powerful than the ant, just like God is bigger and more powerful than Lucifer.

A lot of people today claim that they are attacked by Satan or being tempted by him. Let's take a look at that. First off, Satan does not have the same power as God. He cannot be everywhere at the same time. He cannot be tempting us here and be tempting someone else in another place. Satan is limited in his abilities.

Satan is constantly trying to spoil God's plan. Time and time again we see through the Bible that Satan tries to mess up God's plan, but it doesn't work. God uses Satan to actually bring about His plan that He had for us. This must be frustrating.

We also know how Satan's story ends. God tells us what happens in the Bible. Satan keeps trying to do battle with God but it's not really a battle. Satan loses the fight to God and is cast into the Lake of Fire. Today we can know that Satan has already lost, and God wins. We know that God is more powerful than anything Satan can do. Yes, Satan is more powerful than us and has abilities we do not, but we must remember that he is not God, nor will he ever be. We have God on our side, and nothing is impossible for Him.

Activity: Hand out pipe cleaners or something for the children to make something with. Ask the children to use the given material to make something with it. Once they are done, ask them who owns what they made? Why do they get to decide that? This is why God gets to decide what happens. He created us and everything around us. It belongs to Him.

For the Parents: Together make a list of the things that are characteristic of God and then make a list of what is characteristic of Satan. Compare them and talk about the lists with your child.

Lesson 7
Satan's Desires Man's Corruption:

Purpose: Taken from Knowing God Lesson 9. We are going to take a look at the fall. Adam and Eve go from being perfect and walking with God to fallen and having their relationship with God broken.

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-7

Material: A story of a time when you did something wrong.

Lesson:

Start the lesson by telling a story of a time you did something wrong and got caught. Tell them what you did and what happened when you got caught. Then ask the following questions:

1. Have you ever been blamed for something you didn't do?
2. How did it make you feel?
3. What is the hardest rule for you to follow that has been given by an adult?
4. Do you ever feel like breaking that rule?
5. Have you ever told a lie or stolen something?

Today we are going to look at a story that many of us have heard before. It is a story that talks about broken rules, jealousy, and about blame, but we are going to take a look at it not through the eyes of God, but another created being.

Who can tell me about last week's lesson? (If no one answers, ask the next question) What can you tell me about Lucifer?

God had cast Lucifer to the earth and changed his name to Satan. Why? Because Satan tried to be God. Satan wanted to be God and led other angels in a rebellion against God to try to take God's place. Remember from last week that a created being can never take the place of its creator. Also remember that Satan is limited in his power. He cannot be like God and be everywhere and know everything. Let us continue a little more into his story after he was cast to the Earth.

Satan saw the garden that God created for Adam and Eve. He saw that God had created everything perfect, wonderful, and necessary for them to live. Adam and Eve wanted for nothing and had a wonderful relationship with God. Satan didn't like that and wanted to ruin that relationship. Satan knew God had given Adam a command. Does anyone remember what that was? What did God say would happen to them if they didn't listen and did what God said not to?

God told Adam not to eat of The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil because they would die when they ate of it.

Let's continue on with our story.

Satan saw the relationship God had with Adam and Eve. He had witnessed their creation; the care and love God gave them. Satan did not like this. He wanted Adam and Eve to be just like him, under God's judgement. Satan knew that he had been judged and was going to have eternal consequences for what he did. He wanted Adam and Eve to sin so that they could join him in his punishment.

Why would Satan want this? (Allow time for children to guess)

Because Satan still wanted to be God. He wanted control. But as we will see later, God uses Satan's attempts to take God's place to bring about His plan.

Read Genesis 3:1

Satan disguised himself as a serpent to hide who he was from Eve. He did this to make his lies more believable. Eve was not fazed by a talking snake as she was still learning what animals could or could not do.

Read Genesis 3:1-6

What happened? Eve chose to believe the serpent's lies and doubt God. Eve doubted God's goodness and His love. In doing so she doubted what God had said. This led to Satan's lies being believed. Eve was not forced to eat the fruit. Satan helped her to doubt and helped her to believe that she could be like God.

Notice also that Eve was deceived but Adam just disobeyed. He took the fruit willingly from Eve. They chose to believe the lie that they could be like God and doubted God. They chose disobedience.

Remember back to the lesson about the trees? What happened to Adam and Eve when they ate? (Allow them to answer)

God told them they would die, but they didn't die right away. Remember it would be a slow process. Their soul and spirit which were made in God's image are now corrupted and separated from God. They can no longer know God as they had before.

Read Verse 7

Adam and Eve realized that they were naked and instead of looking to God they tried to provide for themselves and failed. They tried to hide from God what they had done. God knew. He knows everything. Adam and Eve went from being of one mind with God and in a perfect relationship to being of one mind with Satan and in a corrupted relationship with God. Satan was now their ruler and in control. They were afraid just like you and I are afraid when we do something wrong. We know that we did wrong and now we face punishment. We fear

what will happen to us. That is why Adam and Eve were afraid. They were about to face things that they had never experienced before.

Today we still willingly disobey God. We buy into the lies that Satan feeds us, just like Eve did. We still try to be our own God, and still believe we can find our own way back to God. But we can't. Only God's way is perfect. Nothing we do will ever make us right with God. We are separated from Him. But God knew this would happen. He was not surprised by it one bit. It's all part of His plan from the beginning. We will learn more about this in the next lesson.

Activity: Have the children act out the story they just heard. If it is a large group, break them up into teams and have each team present their act.

For the parents: Talk with your kids about tools Satan and his demons may use to deceive us. For example, things we watch, read, etc.

Lesson 8
God Still Loves Adam and Eve

Purpose: This is taken from Lesson 10 of Knowing God. We are going to take a look at the fact that even when we do wrong God still loves us. Even when things seem to be going wrong, God's plan that He had from the beginning will still be done, no matter what we do.

Scripture: Genesis 3:8-19

Materials: A glass of water and some dirt

Lesson:

Last lesson we left off with Adam and Eve trying to provide for themselves and hiding from God. Today we are going to look at God's response to Adam and Eve's disobedience.

Read Genesis 3:8-9

Adam and Eve attempted to hide from God, but God knew where they were. He is everywhere and knows everything.

Why did God then call out to Adam and Eve and ask where they were? (Allow the children to guess)

Because He loves them. God was going to have to follow through with the punishment, but He was giving Adam and Eve a chance to come admit what they had done.

This is like our parents. We do something wrong and somehow, they know we did it. They call us to them and give us a chance to admit what we did. We can either admit we did right or that we did something wrong, either way we will be punished for what we did.

Read Genesis 3:9-11

God now gives Adam the chance to admit what he had done.

What does Adam do?

Read Genesis 3:12-13

He blames God because God gave him Eve. Remember back to how God created Eve and why He did it. Eve was created for Adam because Adam needed a helper, and none were found among the animals. God loved Adam enough to create Eve for him. Now he blames God for his sin. If God hadn't created Eve, he would never have sinned! Eve then turns the blame from herself to the serpent instead of admitting what she did wrong.

This is something we do today, isn't it? Instead of admitting what we did, we like to blame others or circumstances.

Read Genesis 3:14

God curses the snake. No longer will it walk but will crawl instead. Let's look at something else that is included in what God said to the snake.

Adam and Eve are now under Satan's power. Their relationship with God is broken. God punishes Adam and Eve for their sin, but He also makes them a promise.

Read Genesis 3:15

God promises a deliverer! Someone would come and set them free from Satan's rule. God tells us a few things about His plan in this promise.

1. The deliverer would be born of the woman.
2. He would be born by God's intervention. Man would have nothing to do with His birth.
3. He would not have a sin nature like we do.
4. Satan will be crushed and have his authority taken away.
5. God says that Satan will try to stop God's plan, but the deliverer will overcome. Satan will not win this fight.

We see from this promise of a deliverer that God is still loving, merciful and gracious. God reveals this plan of redemption to us at the fall. Adam and Eve got punished but God still showed that He loved them and desired a relationship with them. God was going to save them by sending a deliverer and putting an end to Satan. This promise is made before God gives Adam and Eve their own punishment.

Read Genesis 3:16-19

Eve will have more pain when she has children and will desire to rule her husband, but her husband will have the authority over her. This will cause a lot of fights in their life and even our own households. Women will now want to be over their husbands, when in fact it is the husbands' role to be in charge.

Adam will now have to work for his food. He will have to work the ground which was cursed by God. It will bring up weeds and thorns and compete with the food Adam is trying to grow. Adam is also told that he will be returning to the dust which he was made from. His body will one day die and return to the ground he was made out of.

Today we still live in a fallen world. We see the effects of the fall all around us, in weeds, toil, death, pain, etc. We can focus on that and be upset, or we can focus on the fact that God sent us the deliverer and has provided us a way to be in relationship with Him again. We can focus on the fact that God has kept His promises and will continue to see His plan through.

Activity: Take a glass of water and show it to the children. Explain to them that this glass of water is clean and pure, just like Adam and Eve were before they sinned. Take some dirt and show it to the children. Explain that this dirt represents sin. Add the dirt to the water and mix

it up. Ask the children to try to make the water pure again. They can't, why not? Once sin entered into the world there was nothing that we could do to make ourselves pure again. We are like this dirty water; we will need help to make us pure again. Adam and Eve were promised that one day God would send a deliverer to make them clean and pure again. We are like this glass of water without the deliverer as well. Jesus came and delivered us from our sin by taking our place in our punishment so that we can be pure again. All we have to do is believe in what Jesus has done for us. The relationship that was broken in the garden can now be restored because of Jesus, our deliverer.

Parents: Talk about punishment with your kids. Explain why you punish them when they do things wrong.

Lesson 9

Purpose: This is taken from Knowing God Lesson 11

Scripture: Genesis 3:21-22, 24, 4:3-16, 26

Material: Clothing for the game, pen and pencil

Game: Clothing relay. Will need several pairs of large pieces of clothing. For example: large shirts, pants, shoes, socks, etc. Enough for a couple teams to use. Have the children split into teams. Half the team should be on one side of the room and the other half directly across from them. Leave enough room between the two sides so that children can run. Have the pile of clothes piled behind one team. When the signal is given the first child puts on the clothes and races across the room to take off the clothes to give to the next kid. This continues back and forth until a team has no one left to race. If you have a very small group, have the kids race by putting on the clothes and running across the room.

Lesson:

Start the lesson by giving everyone a piece of paper and a writing implement. Ask the children to make a list of things they think that they can do to make themselves acceptable to God. Give them 5 to 10 mins to complete this task. Go through their lists and read off some. As you read make sure to say things like no, that wouldn't make us acceptable, or no that wouldn't work. At the end of reading the lists tell the children that nothing we do can make us acceptable to God. Not going to church, not trying to be good. Nothing! Only God through His Son can make us acceptable.

Let's look at a story today about people who tried to make themselves acceptable to God, their own way. Remember that God has had a plan on how to make us acceptable to Him since the beginning of time. Let's go back to Adam and Eve. Do you remember what happened? Allow time for guesses and then go over some highlights from the last lesson.

Once Adam and Eve's eyes were open, they realized something about themselves that they hadn't really noticed before. They noticed that they were naked! After they sinned they became sinners, as such they now were self-centered, embarrassed by their nakedness. They tried to take care of this themselves. Does anyone know what they used to make clothes? Fig leaves. Yes, you heard me right. They used leaves to make clothing. What's wrong with using leaves? They don't make good clothing, do they? Instead of asking God for help they took things into their own hands.

Let's read Genesis 3:21

God didn't accept the fig leaves either. God made them clothing out of animals. This was the first death in the Bible. He was teaching Adam and Eve that only through the shedding of blood could they be made acceptable. Eventually, Christ's blood shed on the cross would take

care of that for us, but for people before Jesus, sin could only be paid for by the blood of animals. God is teaching Adam and Eve that they are separated from Him by their sin and that their only hope for redemption is God fulfilling His plan that He had since the beginning. Like Adam and Eve, we too try to cover ourselves up to make ourselves more acceptable. We may not use leaves, but we use things like going to church, being a good person, reading the Bible, etc. We try to make ourselves acceptable to God, but we can't. We need Jesus for that.

God is the one who makes us acceptable to Him. God is the one who killed the animal for Adam and Eve and made them clothes. Then God had them leave the garden. Why is that? Because He loved them. He didn't want them to eat of the tree of life and be in that fallen condition forever, separated from Him.

Read Genesis 3:22-24

Now Adam and Eve go away from the garden and live someplace else. Adam and Eve have two sons, Cain and Abel. When they were born, Eve was excited that they may be the promised one that God told them about that would save them.

Read Genesis 4:3-5

Both Cain and Abel had been born in sin, because of that they had to bring sacrifices to God. Both Cain and Abel brought their sacrifice to God, but God didn't like Cain's. Why do you think that is?

Remember a little earlier when we talked about Adam and Eve trying to make themselves acceptable? Cain was trying to do it himself in his own way, not God's way. Abel came in faith, following God's example from the animal being used for Adam and Eve. Cain came not in faith and not following God's example. God does not accept anything that people come up with to please Him. It's God's way, and no other. Abel came before God the way God wanted and Cain did not, Cain came his own way. Today we look to Jesus's sacrifice instead of sacrificing animals to cover our sin. If God had accepted Cain's sacrifice, He would have not been allowing His plan to unfold and we would still be stuck. We can never come to God our own way or on our own. Only God's way and by God's grace.

Read Genesis 4:6-16

Wow, what just happened? Let the children respond.

God communicates to Cain why his sacrifice was no good and warns Cain that he needs to be careful. He is letting sin rule instead of God. God tells Cain to come to Him like Abel did. Cain is angry at God and in his anger kills Abel. God comes to Cain and pursues him like He did with Adam. Cain leaves God's presence, rejecting God and God's grace. Wow!

It wasn't the wrong sacrifice or killing that got Cain in trouble, but the fact that he rejected God's grace. He already was a sinner, and his rejection of God's grace and God's way was what brought God's judgment. Cain turned his back on God and would not listen. Cain's

descendants were the same way. Without God they were hopeless, but God is in charge and knows what He is doing. His plan will always be brought out.

Adam and Eve had another son named Seth. Cain was not the promised one, nor Abel, neither was Seth. Eve was holding on to the promise of the deliverer coming. Through Seth the promised one would come, and God's plan would happen.

Read Genesis 4:26

People started to call on the name of the Lord. The world was full of sin. Sin is the only thing God left up to man, and we do that well. Sin helps us realize the need for God and it's only through God's way and God's plan that we can be saved. God is faithful and is the only way that His plan will be carried out. His way, not man's.

For the parents:

Read through the story of Cain and Abel together. Talk about the story and what happened.

Lesson 10

Purpose: Taken from Knowing God Lesson 13. We will take a look at how sin has grown in the world, how God looks at sin, and the action He took in order to remove the sin. We also look at death and how it is now a fact of life.

Scripture: Genesis 5:1-32, 2 Peter 2:5, Genesis 6:3, 5-8, 13-17,8-22, 7:6-15

Materials: A chart listing all the people in Genesis 5 and the fact that they were born and then died (Genesis 5:1-32)

Lesson:

Have a chart posted in the front listing all the names of the people in Genesis 5:1–32. Have the children look at the chart and ask: What happens in this piece of Scripture? People are born, live, and then die.

There seems to be a lot of death here among people. God is keeping His promise that when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, death would come to us. None of the people that lived after Adam did not die. Except for Enoch, that is. Enoch walked with God. He loved God and followed God in faith. We see that God took him, Enoch avoided death and was brought into God's presence.

Today we still cannot avoid death. Now that list was just the line that came through Seth. Remember Cain had a family, as well as Adam and Eve's daughters. The earth started to fill with people quickly. All who were born after Adam and Eve were under the curse of sin. Even though most of them did not love God, God still loved these people, though. God did not want them to die. He takes no pleasure in our death. Read 2 Peter 2:5

Through Noah, God reached out to the people of Noah's time. He offered them grace and mercy if they turned from their evil ways and came back to God.

Read Genesis 6:3

God spoke to the people through Noah for 120 years. Time and time again He called out to the people, but they did not want Him.

Read Genesis 6:5-8

Sin had become so great in man's heart that it grieved God. Sin has to be punished and the people would not turn from evil. God saw their sin, even though the people thought they could hide it. God knows everything, and hates sin so much that He is going to destroy them for it. God warns the people of what He is going to do and gives them the opportunity to stop doing what they are doing. Unlike us though, where we sometimes promise to do something and don't always do it, God always does what He says He will do. Now, Noah was also a sinner, as he was born into sin like the rest of us. He deserved death as well. The difference

with Noah is that he loved God. He trusted God to keep His promise of sending the deliverer. Noah did nothing to earn God's favor. Noah was saved by God's grace and by God's doing. Noah found favor in the eyes of God.

Read Genesis 6:13-17

In order to survive the coming judgement, Noah had to follow God's instructions because everything was going to be destroyed.

Hand out a piece of paper and something to draw with. Ask the children to draw the picture you want but don't give them any other instructions as to what picture you want. After a few minutes of them looking confused then say: We can never guess what God wants us to do, like this drawing we need to have instructions from Him. Without God intervening on our behalf, we can never do what God wants us to do.

Read Genesis 6:18-22

Back to the Ark. It had to be huge to house all the animals. God's instructions provided the needed space for all the animals. God didn't leave it up to Noah to come up with how to build the Ark. God told him the design and what to build it out of. It had to be made how God told Noah and with the material God said to use. There would only be one Ark, one way to be saved and only one door into the Ark. God told Noah what type of animals to bring, and how many of each to bring upon the Ark. God makes a covenant with Noah and his entire family, that they will be delivered from the coming punishment. Remember God has a plan and will ensure that it is brought about. He also made a promise to Adam and Eve that a deliverer would come, and God always keeps His promises.

Did you know that up until Noah built the Ark there was no rain? No one knew what rain looked like, but Noah believed God that it would rain. Today many people don't believe in God or about eternal punishment, but like people in Noah's day God always keeps His promises and His plan will always be carried out despite man.

Read Genesis 7:6-15

Noah, his family, and the animals entered the Ark through the one door and God shut it. They were safe because God shut the door. The people of the world's last hope was done once the door was shut. This must have grieved God greatly. For 40 days and nights it rained and poured. The waters rose, carrying out God's judgement. Only those in the Ark were saved because they trusted God. Without God, Noah would not have been able to escape. Noah's only hope through this was to trust God and in God's grace. Just like us today, our only hope of escaping judgment in the last days are to trust in God's plan brought about by Jesus's death and resurrection. We trust in God alone and in His promise.

Activity:

Have the children break up into teams of two or three. Have something for you to draw on that the children can see. Provide the teams with a blindfold, a piece of paper and something

to draw with. Have one person be blindfolded on the team, this person will be the person doing the drawing. The other people on the team will watch you as you draw and describe to the blindfolded person what you are drawing. They are to try to draw as it is described to them. Once done, have them take the blindfold off and compare their drawing to yours. Have the teams switch off who is blindfolded and who is not. Ask at the end how hard it was for them to draw, were the instructions of your teammates clear? Do you think Noah had any trouble with God's instructions?

For the Parents:

Paint or color a rainbow together. Talk about the significance of the rainbow in the Bible and what it means. Remind your children that God always keeps His promises, and we have a reminder from Him of that.

Lesson 11

Taken from Knowing God Chapter 14

Purpose: To see that despite man's sinfulness, God's plan will continue on. In this lesson we will finish taking a look at the story of Noah, as well as taking a look at the tower of Babel.

Scripture: Genesis 8:1-9, 20-22, 9:1-19, 11:1-4

Material: None needed for this lesson

Lesson:

Ask: Do you remember where we left off last lesson? Allow time for the children to answer. We left Noah and the animals on the Ark.

Ask: What do you think is going to happen with them? Allow time for answers. Ask: Do you think God is going to keep His promise to Noah? Let us see.

Read Genesis 8:1-9

God had made two promises to Noah. One was that whoever was in the Ark would be saved and the second was that whoever was not in the Ark would not be saved. Those outside the Ark would be destroyed and cease to be. Remember though, God gave them a chance for 120 years to choose Him and stop their wrongdoing. They chose not to get on the Ark and to continue in their sinful ways, whereas Noah and his family chose to believe in God.

Ask: Did you know that all over the world there are different stories of a global flood? People have told the story of the flood over and over. Like a game of telephone, it got twisted and things added to the stories that are not true. To show you guys what I mean we are going to play a couple games of telephone.

Take 10 minutes to play telephone. Have the children line up and whisper something in the first kid's ear. They then turn and tell the next kid who tells the next kid, etc., until the end of the line. When the message gets to the end of the line ask the last child what the message was.

We know that this story is the correct one. Ask: How do I know that? Allow time for children to answer.

We know because God was an eyewitness to the whole event and told Moses the events to record in the first five books of the Bible.

Read Genesis 8:20-22

Ask: Remember back when the animals were loaded on the Ark? God told Noah to take with him seven of each of certain types of animals. These animals would be used to sacrifice to

God. Remember back to Adam and Eve, the fact that they had to have blood shed for their sin? Noah and his family would need that provision as well. The flood did not take away sin. It only washed away the consequences of sin. Noah and his family were still sinners and still sinned. This blood did not take away their sin either. Only Jesus can do that, but until the Deliverer came, they had this as a reminder that the wages of sin is death.

God also made more promises to Noah and his family once the flood was over, and they were off the Ark. One was that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. The second was that there would always be seasons, night, and day while the world remained.

God also gave Noah a command. Let's take a look at it.

Read Genesis 9:1-7

He told Noah and his family to have dominion (rule) over all the earth. He also told them to multiply and fill the whole earth.

Read Genesis 9:8-19

God gave Noah and his family the sign of the rainbow. It was a reminder of His promises. When we see the rainbow, we know that God put it there to remind us of His faithfulness and that He will always keep His promises.

We also see that through Noah and his sons, eleven nations were born. We are going to jump ahead about three generations and see what has happened since the flood.

Read Genesis 11:1-4

Wait a minute! Something is wrong here! What is wrong with this picture? (Allow time for answers)

They are deciding not to follow what God told them to do! Instead of spreading out they are deciding to clump together. Uh oh, this is bad.

The people seemed to have forgotten God already. They want to do things their way and be important in their own eyes. They are going to not listen and follow God's plan. But God is faithful, and no one can stop God's plan. These people who built the Tower of Babel had no excuse for not knowing God or believing in Him. Just like us today, they knew what God required of them, but they took matters into their own hands. What do you think God's going to do?

Read Genesis 11:5

God sees what they are doing, He knows what is in their hearts and in their minds. They could not hide from God what they planned to do. Adam and Eve tried that and looked where it got them.

Read Genesis 11:6-9

This was more an act of grace and mercy. He confused their languages so that they would go and disperse. If they stayed in one place, we would have had a world just like before the flood. God's plan will always be brought about despite man's intentions.

In the first 11 chapters of Genesis, we see the Lucifer mindset. Man has rebelled against God and God's ways. Man has tried to forget God and God's promises. We are stuck in our sinful ways and can only produce sinful things. We want our own way. But God is faithful and does not leave us to our sinful ways. Time and time again, we see Him stepping in to ensure His plan to save us is carried out despite our ways. God is faithful when we are not. Today we see the same things. People reject God, the world is full of sin, people want their own way and not God's. But remember, God is faithful and always keeps His promises. His plan will be brought about.

For the parents: Read Psalm 139 together and memorize a verse that was meaningful to you both from that Psalm.

Lesson 12

Knowing God Lesson 15

Purpose: Abram is learning who God is and learning to trust Him above all else. This lesson will talk about the beginning of that relationship and how Abram's and God's relationship starts.

Material: A bucket, blindfolds, blue and red objects.

Scripture: Genesis 11:27-32, 12:1, Acts 7:2-4, Genesis 12:2-5, 2 Timothy 1:9, 13:5-11, Genesis 8:21

Lesson:

Ask: Who is Abram? Allow time for answers.

Ask: Can anyone tell me a story about him? Allow time for answers.

A lot of people focus on him as a great man of faith. We will see as we go through the next couple lessons that he was in fact just a man that God chose, who without God's intervention wouldn't be mentioned in the Bible.

Read Genesis 11:27-30

Abram was the son of Terrah, who descended from Shem, Noah's son. Abram was childless, which back then was looked upon as a curse. Children were a sign of God's blessing.

Read Genesis 11: 31-32

Ur is in present day Iraq. Terrah and his family moved from Ur towards Canaan but stopped and settled in Haran.

Read Genesis 12:1 and Acts 7:2-4

Abram didn't choose God. He was living among people who worshipped other gods. God had called Abram out and used his family to help move him. Abram didn't know God; it was God who came to Abram and told him what to do. God started the relationship. Abram would have continued on with his life not knowing God if it hadn't been for God reaching out to Abram and drawing him to Himself.

God calls a man from a nation that worships other gods, whose wife can't have children, and led them to a land that they didn't know or own. Through them God brought forth a nation that would bring about the line of the Deliverer. Read 2 Timothy 1:9

None of this was done by Abram, or by Abram's wishes. It was all God's doing. Abram is just like Noah, Adam, and Eve, he is a sinner that can only produce sin. Genesis 8:21

God wants Abram to know and trust Him. He makes some promises to Abram. Let's take a look at them.

Read Genesis 12:2-3

God graciously communicates to Abram the great plans He has for him. Abram will be the father of a great nation; God promises to protect and prosper him. He promises to prosper those who help and punish those who don't. Through Abram would come the greatest blessing for the world. God is after a relationship with Abram, so he will show Abram who He is and help Abram learn who he is.

It's just like meeting someone for the first time. We don't know them or trust them until we get to know them and what they are like.

Just like Noah, Abram believed in the promises of God. He believed that God would bring about the impossible in Abrams's life. God does the same for us. He calls us to know Him and believe the promises He gives us. We, like Abram, just have to believe.

Read Genesis 12:4-5

God faithfully brought Abram to Canaan. Abram brought Lot with him. Lot was Abram's nephew. On the journey to Canaan, both of them became very wealthy.

Read Genesis 13:5-11

Lot and Abram now had many things, and it was causing issues between the two groups. Abram lets Lot choose where to settle first. It seems that Abram was depending on God and not on what he could do to make his life better. God had already come to Abram, given him some promises and Abram had seen that God had faithfully led them to where He had promised. Abram was beginning to know God. Abram trusts in the promises of God where Lot instead of looking to God for wisdom makes his own choice by sight. He chooses to live near Sodom, which was an evil city and did many evil things before God. Lot chose to go and live among them. This does not bode well for Lot, does it? It also appears that Abram got the worse end of the deal. We will have to see next week what happens. Remember that God sees everything and knows what is on our hearts and in our minds.

Game: Blindfold team challenge. Split the children into two teams, blue team, and red team. One member of the team is blindfolded while the rest of the team will be guiding them. There will be blue items and red items on the floor mixed. The two teams must guide their blindfolded player to gather all of their colors without getting the other group's colors. The non blind folded players can only use their voice to guide their teammate to pick up objects to put into their buckets. Players must work as a team. This game can be played multiple times in a row. The point is to get the students to understand how hard it is to listen for God's voice when we have others trying to get our attention.

Parents: Discuss with your child: What kind of problems do you think Sarai and Abram would have encountered when they trusted God when no one else did?

Lesson 13

Knowing God Lesson 16, Part 1

Purpose: To look at the promises that God made to Abram and see the growth of Abram's faith.

Material: Printed copies of Genesis 14:1-16, drawing material

Scripture: Genesis 14:1-16,17-20, Hebrews 7:1-2, Genesis 14:21-24, 15:5-6, 12-16, James 2:23

Lesson:

Have children act out Genesis 14:1-16. Read it to them first and then assign different roles to the children. If you have a very small group, then give multiple roles to the same child. For example, one kid could be all the kings on one side.

Once acted out ask these questions:

1. Why do you think Abram got involved? (To help Lot, his relative.)
2. Why was Lot taken captive? (He chose to live near Sodom and be involved with them.)

God will always take care of His family. Despite Lot's bad choice, God used Abram to take care of him. This is God's grace. Grace is not based upon us making right choices. If it was dependent upon us making the right choice, we would never get it. God gives us grace freely.

Read Genesis 14:17-20

Who do you think Melchizedek was?

He was a picture of Christ. Christ is our King and is director of our lives. As a high priest He is our intercessor (our go between) and our advocate. Hebrews 7:1-2

3. What do you think Abram did with all the stuff he got? Read Genesis 14:21-24

Now we are going to shift gears and spring ahead in Abram's story. I have a very important question for you. Can you tell me how many stars are in the sky? Give me a number. If you remember back to the creation story, God created the stars to be numerous. We don't know exactly how many there are, as there are too many to count!

God asked Abram to do the same thing. To count the stars. Let's read about it in Genesis 15:5-6

God promises Abram, who if you remember has no child, that he will have children as numerous as the stars. Wow! It also tells us that Abram believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Ask: What does righteousness mean? Wait for answers. How can one be righteous? Genesis 15:5-6, James 2:23

Abram was a sinner just like the rest of humanity. He needed God, just like Enoch needed God to avoid death, or Noah to survive the flood. Without God, none of this would happen. Abram believed and trusted God to bring him a child.

This is the same for us. We can't save ourselves. We need God to do that for us. We need to trust and have faith that God will always see his plan through and provide for us. God always keeps His promises.

God warns, though, that it won't be easy for Abram's descendants, let us see why.

Read Genesis 15:12-16

Abram's descendants would be in captivity for 400 years, in a place not their own, but God would be with them. They would be treated poorly, but God would bring judgement on the nation who treats them poorly and bring Abram's people back home. God told Abram what He was going to do and let the future generations know what would happen. We will look at this in greater detail later on and see how God keeps His promise to Abram.

Activity: Have the children draw the story they just heard.

For the Parents: Go stargazing and find constellations together. See how many stars you can count.

Lesson 14

Knowing God Lesson 16, Part 2

Purpose: To look at the meaning of names, and the fact that God hates sin, but is merciful.

Material: A piece of paper and writing materials.

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-5, 15-17, 18:20-2, 19:1-4, 6-7, 9-11, Genesis 19:12-23, Genesis 19:24-26

Lesson:

Does your name have a meaning? What does your name mean? Do you ever wish your name was something else? What would it be if you could change it?

Activity: Write out the children's names on a piece of paper and see if they can come up with words for the letters of their names. Mary, for example, could be Merciful And Really Young.

We are going to see God change Abram and Sarai's names. Why do you think God does that? Let's find out.

Read Genesis 17:1-5 and 15-17

Abram meant "high or exalted father". God changed it to Abraham which means "father of a multitude". Wow, God is really showing Abraham that He plans to keep His promises. Why else would God call him father of a multitude? God was going to bring about something great for Abraham, and all Abraham did was be there.

Sarai's name meant "my princess" or "my lady". God changed it to "princess of a multitude". Sarai changed to Sarah. God promises Sarah that kings would descend from her. He reaffirms his promise to both Abraham and Sarah by changing their names. At this time Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, but God was going to bring about a miracle in them and bring about His plan. He was about to do the impossible to bring about the promise of the Deliverer. God is sovereign, He can do anything. He wanted Abraham to be a part of His plan. There is still hope for the sinful world because of God's involvement. God wants all of us to be in His plan.

Now let's take a look at Lot's decision to live near Sodom and Gomorrah.

Read Genesis 18:20-21

God is all knowing. At this time there lived many people on the earth, but God's focus was turned towards Sodom and Gomorrah. The evil that was in these places was great and God saw it. He knew what was in their hearts and in their minds, just like He knows what we are thinking and doing. He is all-knowing. Unlike our parents sometimes, who we can do stuff with, and they will never know what we did unless we tell them, God sees and knows. Sodom

and Gomorrah are about to get a visit from God and be judged according to their actions and deeds.

Read Genesis 19:1-4, 6-7, 9-11

Lot chose back in the beginning of Genesis to live near the city. Apparently, during his time of living near the city, Lot chose to move into the city. He was sitting with the leadership at the gate of the city. Lot was very much involved with this city. God sent two angels to the city to warn Lot and Lot's family that God was going to punish the city for the evil that was being done. Lot had been with Abram and seen what God was doing. He may have made some bad choices about where he lived, but God showed Lot grace. Read 2 Peter 2:7-8. God gives grace to those who believe and trust Him.

It is tempting to look at one particular sin of Sodom and Gomorrah and say that was the reason that God judged them. It actually was a much deeper issue than one sin. It was the fact that they were choosing to be led by the flesh. Remember back to Adam and Eve. How many times have people turned from God to do their own thing? Sin only breeds sin, and without looking to God for help it will destroy us. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were willingly choosing to do their own thing and turn their back on God. They did not want God involved in their lives, and as a result it caused them to be a very wicked people. Why would Lot choose to live among people like this? Because like us, Lot was a sinner. We also sometimes choose to do our own thing instead of what God wants us to do.

Read Genesis 19:12-23

God saved Lot and his family not because Lot was a good person, but because God is merciful. Lot also didn't believe the angels about what God was about to do. The angels had to take Lot by the hand and force him to leave. This was God's grace. He rescued him even though he was living in a very sinful city. He could have left Lot to die with the others, but instead He acted on Lot's behalf. This is how God has reacted throughout time with man, with grace. This is also a picture of how God is with believers today. As God took Lot by the hand and delivered him, so has Christ done for us. God waits until Lot and his family get to safety before raining down judgement. He holds off judgement until they are safe.

Read Genesis 19:24-26

God sent fire and brimstone down upon Sodom and Gomorrah. This must have been terrifying, to watch this demonstration of God's power and hatred of sin. We have seen this hatred of sin before, with Lucifer's rebellion, Adam and Eve, Cain, and the flood. God hates sin and has not changed His position on it. Sin demands punishment. We as sinners can do nothing to stop our sin and what it produces in us. This is why it is not left up to us to figure out. God has to intervene on our behalf and does so willingly and lovingly. We receive grace from God and know that God will always bring about His plan and purposes. We just need to believe and trust that plan.

For parents: Ask why parents why their name was picked.

Lesson 15

Knowing God Lesson 17

Purpose: We see that God always keeps His promises, even when we have doubt or forget them ourselves.

Scripture: Genesis 20, 21:1-3, Genesis 22:1-19

Material: None needed

Lesson:

Ask: How many of you would believe someone you don't know if they said that they have something for you?

We wouldn't, we would be suspicious of what that person's intentions are. We doubt who people are and what their intentions are until we get to know them. God knows that about us. This is why He has given us His Word, the Bible, to show us who He is. We can get to know and trust in who God is by reading through what God has written about Himself.

God was the same way with Abraham. He slowly showed Abraham who He was, and that Abraham could trust Him and His promises. Abraham doubted God just like we do, but God continued to faithfully walk beside Abraham and show him who He was.

Read Genesis 20

Abraham didn't trust the strangers whose land he had traveled to. Instead of trusting God to protect him and Sarah, Abraham took matters in his own hands. Abraham had seen the power of God with the defeat of the four kings, he saw God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, yet he doubted God would help him with this one king. Abraham forgot about the promise of a son and doubted God. Abraham came up with a scheme to tell a half truth about Sarah. He told Sarah to say she was his sister when she was his half-sister. Sarah was beautiful and Abraham was afraid that people would kill him to take her. To save his own life he acted on his own behalf instead of taking his concerns to God. Sarah was still taken by the king.

Ask: What happens? Does God leave Abraham to figure out his way out of the mess he made?

No, God gets involved on Sarah's and Abraham's behalf. Just like when we get in trouble, our parents come to our rescue, even when we have done wrong. They lovingly show us where we went wrong and help us to get back on track. God prevented anything bad happening to Sarah and had her returned to Abraham. He once again shows that He is in control and His plan will be fulfilled. He didn't leave it up to Abraham to figure out how to fix it. He took care of it. If the king had taken Sarah, then the promise of a son would never happen. Abraham would never be a father of multitudes, but God always keeps His promises and is faithful even when we are not.

Read Genesis 21:1-3

Ask: Is it hard to wait for something we are promised or looking forward to? Like Christmas, for example?

We see decorations being put out, people out shopping, some places it snows. The excitement builds for the promise of presents and seeing loved ones. It seems like time slows down while we wait patiently for what Christmas will bring us. We may ask "How much longer? Is it tomorrow?" It's hard to wait for something we are excited for, right?

Abraham and Sarah had to wait a long time for their promised son to be born. It may seem like God had forgotten His promise, but He hadn't. Abraham and Sarah had tried to take matters into their own hands to bring about a son because they were worried about their age. This didn't affect God's promise, and God gave them a son. They named him Isaac.

Read Genesis 22:1-2

This doesn't seem right. Why would God tell Abraham to go and sacrifice his son? He waited so long for Isaac to be born, and now God is asking Abraham to give him up? This doesn't make a whole lot of sense, does it? Let's see what Abraham does.

Read Genesis 22:3-8

Isaac had probably seen a lot of sacrifices in his life. He saw that his dad was getting ready to go and sacrifice but one key element was missing. The sacrifice itself! Abraham answers Isaac's question about the sacrifice by saying that God would provide the lamb. Abraham was allowing God to lead him and was trusting God in this. Just like God asks us to do today when things don't seem right. God asks us to trust Him.

Read Genesis 22:9-10

This picture of Isaac, tied up and laying on the altar, his life about to be taken, is a picture of our current situation. We ourselves, because of our sin, are bound and deserving of death. We can't escape it, nor could Isaac. God stopped Abraham from killing Isaac and provided a lamb for the sacrifice.

Read Genesis 22:10-19

Abraham trusted God with Isaac's life and God provided a lamb to die in Isaac's place. This is such a great picture for us. While we are bound and helpless with sin, God provided the substitute for us in Jesus who died in our place. This was a clear demonstration of what the Deliverer would do when He came. Abraham had trusted God with Isaac's life, and that was only brought about by the relationship that God had built with Abraham. Had God done this at the beginning Abraham would not have trusted God as he did now. God continues to unfold

His eternal plan of redemption and Abraham trusted in God's promises to bring about a nation through Isaac.

Activity: Have the children act out the story or if they are not into acting, have them draw the story.

Parents: Make a chart or list of what is important to your family. Example: spending time with each other.

Lesson 16

Knowing God Lesson 18

Purpose: To see how like Rebekah we are being prepared to be the bride of Christ.

Scripture: Genesis 24:1-60

Material: Pictures or actual items of what a bride may need for her wedding. A dress, tape, or safety pins, depending on what you choose to go with for the activity.

Lesson:

What does a bride need to be ready on her special day? Let us make a list and see what we think she will need to be ready to get married. Spend a few minutes talking about it and then tell them that the list will be important later on. Let us focus on a story of a bride and see if we got it right.

Today we are going to hear a story that you may know well. We are going to talk about finding a bride for Isaac, but we are also going to use this story to understand God's plan for us, that He has had on His heart since before He created the world.

Read Genesis 24:1-4

In this passage, who was it that had the plan to find a bride for Isaac?
Abraham! Just like Abraham, God had the plan to bring about the church and the bride of Christ.

Ask: What is a church? What is a bride? (Allow time for the children to answer and see if they have a good concept of what these things are. If not, go over what makes up a church, and what a bride is.)

Abraham determined that the time had come for Isaac to be married and have a wife. He was the one who decided it was time for the servant to go out and find a wife. He didn't do it when Isaac was a child. That would be silly, as the timing wouldn't be right. He waited until Isaac was old enough to have a wife of his own and sought one that was right for him.

God makes us ready to be the bride of Christ. We have to be the perfect match, just like Abraham wanted the right woman for Isaac, so we as a church must be made ready to be the bride for Jesus. Only God can do this for us. It is through Jesus's death on the cross and the resurrection that we can be made presentable. Being presentable here means to be made holy, and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:27) God also gave us the Spirit after Jesus left to help us and prepare us. Notice that the Spirit did not come before Jesus as we would not have been ready, just like Isaac would not have been ready as a child, it came after. There was an appropriate time. In the same way God also gave us the Holy Spirit to help and prepare us. The Holy Spirit came into the world to call out a people to become the bride of Christ. (John 14:26)

Read Genesis 24:5-9

Abraham warns his servant that Isaac is to remain where he is, and the bride is to be brought back there. Isaac is not to go to the bride's family. This is just like the bride of Christ. Jesus will not be brought back to us, but we will be brought to Him and presented to Him.

Read Genesis 24:10-26

The servant in this story is a lot like the Holy Spirit. He is sent having full control over the gifts that were given to him by Abraham. The Holy Spirit is also sent bearing gifts for the bride of Christ.

We also see that the servant goes out totally depending on God to show him the one chosen for Isaac. We see it in his prayer asking God for a specific sign. What did he ask for?

Read verse 14.

Rebekah came out shortly after and did what the servant prayed to God for. God answered his prayer! He gave her a gift and asked for a place to stay with his camels. Rebekah invited him to her father's house.

Read Genesis 24: 28-49

Rebekah ran home to tell her family what had happened. When the servant arrived, he started telling them about Isaac and Abraham. For those of us who believe in Jesus, that is exactly what the Holy Spirit does. We don't really know Jesus when we first believe, but the Holy Spirit starts to teach us and grow us in the knowledge of who He is. Wow, what a picture! The servant tells of all Abraham has to give just as the Holy Spirit teaches us about the many spiritual blessings we get when we believe in what Jesus did for us. (Ephesians 1)

Read Genesis 24:50-60

Her family is so amazed at what God is doing in Rebekah's life that they can't argue with it. They tell her to go, and the servant immediately begins to give the gifts that he brought with him.

What are some things that the Holy Spirit blesses us with when we become believers? Let's look at the list we made earlier about what a bride needs to be married.

(Have pictures or examples of what a bride might need for her wedding.) See Lesson 18 for the list.

As you pull out pictures that show what a bride might need, explain that the Holy Spirit gives us what we need also, and we are going to look at those gifts. As you show the picture of what

an earthly bride needs, hand it to a child to hold and tell them what the Holy Spirit gives instead. If you don't have enough kids, multiple kids can get multiple pictures.

Wow, a bride needs a lot to get married! Isn't it great that God through the Holy Spirit prepares us to be Jesus's bride?

Getting ready to be a bride and be ready for the special day takes time, just like our preparation to become the bride of Christ. It takes a lifetime to grow and learn about Jesus. Upon deciding to marry Isaac, Rebekah had to prepare for a journey through the wilderness to reach her new husband-to-be. She got to learn about Isaac as she traveled, from the servant. As believers, we will go through our own wilderness journey. On our journey through life, we learn through the Holy Spirit teaching us about Jesus and leading us closer to Him. It may not be easy, but at the end we get to be with Jesus!

Activity: Have a dress or a picture of a dress that children can put index cards on or pin them to. Give out index cards and ask the children to write down something the Holy Spirit gives them. Then once they are done, have them take turns pinning them to the dress.

For the parent: Talk about the preparations that went into a wedding you saw. How much detail do you think God puts into making us the Bride of Christ.

Lesson 17

Knowing God Lesson 19

Purpose: God continues to carry out His plan despite mankind's sinfulness. God works through Jacob to bring about the twelve tribes, from whom the Deliverer will come.

Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 9:10-13, Genesis 26:1-15, Genesis 27:1-44, Genesis 28:1-17, Genesis 32

Material: A list of the nine names from Knowing God Lesson 19 and their meanings. Have a blindfold for the activity.

Lesson:

When the children come in, have the nine names and their meanings on the board or wall. Point out that it's been 21 generations from Adam to Isaac. The first ten were from Adam to Noah, let's look at some of what their names mean.

Read the name and their meaning. Read this phrase: "It is appointed to mortal man, sorrow, but the blessed God shall come down, teaching that His death shall bring the despairing comfort" Isn't it interesting that we go from Adam, who was made perfect, through the fall to sin, and then to Noah and the flood.

The next generations up to Isaac didn't change after the flood. God had to be directly involved in their lives to bring about the plan. If it was up to man, we would have never made it. They needed God to be the one to reach out to them.

Ask: Remember Genesis 8:28? Can anyone recite it for me? Read it if they can't remember. God's plan will always be brought about, and He is faithful to see it through despite our sinful state.

Today we will continue looking at God's plan and how He brought it about. We will take a look at two brothers and what God did with them.

Read Genesis 25:19-34

Twins were born to Rebekah. Esau was first and Jacob second. In Jewish culture, the first-born male got the birthright. What is a birthright? It is the right to possess what your family has. When Abraham died, Isaac got to keep everything his father had, and take ownership of it. When Isaac died, everything should have gone to Esau. As we read in the passage, though, Esau did not take the idea of the birthright seriously.

Read Romans 9:10-13

Jacob got the birthright because God chose him to receive it before the brothers were even born. God chose Jacob to be the one who He would work through to bring about His plan.

These stories are not about how faithful man is in doing what God says, they are about how Sovereign God is, and how loving, graceful, and merciful He is to fulfill His plan despite how much man tries to mess it up.

Read Genesis 26:1-15

Isaac didn't know God very well and didn't trust Him. Sounds familiar right? Just like Abraham, God intervenes in Isaac's life and starts a relationship with him. Isaac didn't reach out to God to figure out what to do about the famine, but God reached out to him and started the relationship. Isaac is blessed by God and protected.

Read Genesis 27:1-44

Wow, that was interesting! This family, instead of trusting God to do what He said, decided to lie to one another and deceive each other to get what God had said would happen. They depended on their own understandings instead of seeking after God. God used this situation, despite man and his sins, to bring about what He had said would happen. No one can mess up God's plan. This family was treating each other this way because that is how they understood it. They tried to find their own way, instead of trusting God to bring about what He said.

Read Genesis 28:1-17

Jacob is on the run, afraid of what might happen to him. God lovingly pursues Jacob like He did with Abraham and Isaac. God starts the relationship and starts teaching Jacob about who He is. God uses Jacob to continue bringing about His plan. It is through Jacob that the 12 tribes of Israel are born, and from Israel that God uses them to teach about the coming Deliverer, to teach that man cannot live up to God's standards, and to bring about Jesus. God communicates His plan to Jacob.

We see God is with Jacob as he travels to his uncle's home. God blesses Jacob with many possessions and two wives. Again, this is brought about by deception and lying, but God uses it. Through these two wives, God will start the twelve tribes. Jacob decides to head back home with everything he has, including his new family.

Read Genesis 32

God teaches Jacob more as they travel back. He once again promises the Deliverer will come through Jacob's line. Then God changed Jacob's name from "he deceives" to "he who struggles with God." This is what the name Israel means, and we will see that happen as God brings about His plan through Israel.

Like He did when He chose Abraham, the idol worshiper with a barren wife, it is just like God to choose a people who would struggle with believing and trusting Him as His people, instead of those who would easily obey and follow Him. He is clearly making the point that it is all about Him and His grace. It is never about mankind and anything that we have to offer. God isn't flustered by me and my sin, even when I fail God is still faithful.

Activity: Ask another teacher or helper to come to the front of the class. Tell the helper that you are going to give them a series of commands but that you want them to disobey every command you give. For example, if you say go right, they will go left. Have an object set out in the room that the goal will be getting them to. The objective is that even though they are doing the wrong thing, you will get them to the goal. Blindfold them and have them start disobeying. Through doing this, the kids will see that even though we disobey and do not always follow God's commands, God's plan always ends up happening.

God always keeps His word.

For the Parents: Read the scripture passage together and talk about the time that God called you to become a believer.

Lesson 18

Knowing God Lesson 19

Purpose: To see where God is when things seem to be going all wrong. God used Joseph's problems to bring about His plan.

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-36, 39:1-37, 40:1-23, 41

Material: Pictures of Joseph's dream or items from his dream, a coat, pictures of a sheep, a well, shredded cloth, rope, picture of camels, shredded cloth with red on it, a picture of Egypt, a picture of a house, a picture of jail, jail keys, bread, cup, a picture of Pharaoh

Lesson:

This lesson we will be taking the children around the room to different stations about Joseph. Have the stations set up before the children arrive.

Today we will be going on a journey and seeing how God used what was intended for evil for good. We will be following in the footsteps of Joseph to learn a little bit more about the character of God.

Station 1

Pictures of the dreams and have a coat sitting on a chair. Read Genesis 37:1-11. Ask: Do you have any siblings? Do you sometimes feel like your parents love another child more than you? Allow time for answers. In this story, this was true of Joseph. He was given a special coat (hold up coat) that had many colors on it. This caused his brothers to be jealous. What made them even more jealous was the fact that God sent Joseph dreams letting them know what was to happen. His brothers didn't see it as that and used it against Joseph. Head to station 2

Station 2

Pictures of sheep, a well, and shredded cloth. Read Genesis 37:12-24. Joseph's dad Israel sent him to check on his brothers and make sure they were okay. Joseph's brothers did not like him and let their jealousy decide their actions towards him. They wanted to kill him and be done with it, but Reuben helped them see the errors of their ways. Instead, they stripped him of his cloak (hold up shredded cloth) and put him in a dry well. That must have been scary and doesn't look very good for Joseph. Head to station 3

Station 3

Have a rope, a picture of camels, shredded cloth with red on it, and a picture of Egypt. Read Genesis 37:25-36. His brothers sold him into slavery and then told his father he had been killed. They (hold up cloth) used his clothes to back up their lies. Meanwhile, the traders took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to an officer of Pharaoh. Where do you think God is in all this? Head to station 4

Station 4

Have a picture of a house and a jail. Read Genesis 39:1-6. Joseph had been sold to a high-ranking official who he soon grew in favor with. God blessed Joseph and the household he managed. Joseph was put in charge of the entire household and entrusted with everything.

One day the master left on a journey and the master's wife wanted Joseph to do something that was wrong. Joseph refused, and his master's wife told lies about him to the master upon his return. The master was very angry and threw him into jail. It seems like Joseph's life is getting worse instead of better, doesn't it? Where do you think God is in this? Remember that what man intends for bad, God uses for good. Head to station 5.

Station 5

Have a picture of jail, keys, bread, and a cup. Read Genesis 39:20-23, 40:1-23. God is with Joseph in the jail. He causes him to find favor with the jailer, and he is allowed freedom around the jail. One day God sent dreams to two officials, warning them what was to come. God used Joseph to interpret them. The dreams soon come to pass and soon Joseph is forgotten. Or is he? Head to station 6.

Station 6

Picture of Pharaoh and his palace. Read Genesis 41. God sent Pharaoh a dream warning him what he was about to do, and again God used Joseph to interpret for Him. This caused Joseph to find favor in Pharaoh's eyes, and he was given power to be second in command under Pharaoh. God blessed Joseph greatly in this. The famine came as God promised, but Egypt was prepared because Joseph listened to God. Now all the people of the Earth came to Egypt because they were without food, but Egypt had plenty. Let's head to our last station and see how God uses this situation to bring about His plan.

Station 7

Have the same pictures from station 1 and read:

Joseph's brothers came down to Egypt to buy food. They did not recognize Joseph, but Joseph recognized them. The brothers came and bowed before him, asking to buy grain. Joseph sold it to them but told them the next time they wanted to buy grain they would have to bring their youngest brother with them. Joseph wanted to test his brothers to see if they had changed. Their father said no to sending Benjamin, because he was afraid to lose him, although eventually hunger won out and they took him to Egypt. Joseph had them to dinner and sat them according to their age, which amazed them. They still did not know who he was. When they were to leave and head back home Joseph had his servant put a cup in Benjamin's sack of grain. As they were traveling home, they were stopped by the servant, who accused them of theft. When the cup was discovered, they were brought back to Joseph who threatened to throw Benjamin in jail. The brothers pleaded with Joseph, saying that that would kill their father and to take them instead. Joseph was pleased with their answer and revealed who he was, and all God had done in his life. He forgave his brothers for what they did to him. God had sent Joseph ahead of them to ensure that they were fed and taken care of. When Pharaoh heard of Joseph's family being there, he invited them to come and live in Egypt. Israel and all his family moved down to live in Egypt and had plenty of food to eat. What man intended for evil, God intended for good.

One last thing before we are done for the day. Remember back to Abraham, and how God promised that his descendants would go live in a foreign country? Israel never planned it, but God used Joseph to bring about the move. This small nation was brought to Egypt as God

promised and would remain there for the next 400 years. We will learn more about this in later lessons. Isn't it amazing how God uses evil plans to bring about his great plan?

Read Pg 137 of Knowing God to the children in closing.

For the parents: Read the story of Joseph together and share about a time in your life when God used a seemingly bad situation for your good.

Lesson 19

Knowing God Lesson 20

Purpose: God's plan continues to be brought forth despite circumstances that occur. It may seem like God is not paying attention at times to what is going on, but He allows circumstances to happen in our life to teach us more about Him. His plan is always accomplished, despite what we believe or feel.

Scripture: Exodus 1:1-22, 2:1-25, Acts 7:22

Material: Pens and paper

Lesson:

As the children come in, have them sit and make two lists. List One: What are some things that protect us? For example, seat belts. List Two: Who are people who protect us? For example, a doctor would protect us.

Ask: What promises are you looking forward to? Allow time for answers.

Ask: Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? Allow time for answers.

Ask: How did that make you feel? Allow time for answers.

Remind them that they can always trust God to keep His promises, even though sometimes it may not feel like it, as we will see with the Israelites in today's story.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have heard some stories about different people. All through those stories, we have seen people who had a lot of hardship and trials to face. Through it all, God has been faithful towards mankind. His character has never changed, and He continues to reveal Himself to people even today. We can trust His faithfulness as we ourselves face the hardships in our lives.

Today in our story we are going to look at how God remains faithful even when it looks like all hope is lost.

Read Exodus 1:1-11

If you remember, Israel and his family had moved down to Egypt, invited by Joseph and Pharaoh to live where there was food. Back home, there was no food to be had and Joseph's brothers had to make trips to buy food. They decided to stay in Egypt, and God blessed them. The Israelites grew in numbers and were starting to become rich and powerful. The old generation passed away, and a new Pharaoh took over. He didn't know about what happened with the food shortage and how Joseph had helped the Egyptians prepare for it. Instead, he saw people who were not his own, who were living in his land, growing, and prospering. He feared that eventually they would turn against him. He decided to fix that problem. He made the Israelites his slaves. Uh oh, this doesn't look good, does it?

Read Exodus 1:12-22

What is going on here? Can anyone tell me? (Allow time for answers.) What we have here is God carrying out His plans for His people. He promised to make them numerous, and He is doing just that despite all that Pharaoh and his people are doing to try to stop them. Pharaoh is being ruled by his sin nature, and his fear, to fight against God's plan and God's people. It seems like things are going badly for Israel as they are abused, their children are being killed, and they are being forced to work hard. What purpose did this serve, for God to allow this? We will see as the story goes on. Remember, God had told Abraham that his descendants would live in a foreign land and be enslaved for 400 years. God knew this would happen and is using it for His purpose and to bring out His plan.

Read Exodus 2:1-10

We see God's faithfulness again in this story. God delivers Moses to Pharaoh's daughter, who decided to raise him herself in Pharaoh's house, as her own son. Why is this important? (Allow time for answers.) It allows Moses to learn how to be a leader. History tells us that as a son in Pharaoh's house, Moses would learn how to lead, read, and write. He would learn how to lead an army and govern a people. Wow! God is using the one person set on destroying God's plan to help bring about that plan, by preparing Moses to lead the people of Israel. Read Acts 7:22

Read Exodus 2:11-22

We have seen this before, haven't we? Man decides to take things into his own hands instead of looking to God for help and direction. Man fails, and God intervenes on his behalf. God had chosen Moses, protected him, provided for him, and placed him in a great position. Moses decided to take things into his own hands when it came to his people. It's the same thing that Adam, Eve, Cain, and Abraham did. It's the same thing we do today, and now we see Moses doing it. We are unable to deliver ourselves from the punishment of sin. We are like Israel, slaves. We, like Israel, need God to act on our behalf. God alone is our only hope, through Christ's work of salvation on the cross. Israel needs someone to save them, and God will be faithful as He promised, but in His own way and by His own plan, not through man's actions and plans.

Read Exodus 2:23-25

God had not forgotten His people. Remember, He had told Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that this would happen, and that He promised He would bring Israel out. The people turned to God to seek His help. Sometimes, God allows our lives to get to be a mess so that we will turn to Him in the mess. God is all about relationships and wants us to grow in our relationship with Him. Israel is now turning to God in their distress. They are looking to God to act on their behalf. What will God do? Come next week and we will see.

For the parents: Read the passage together and talk about the different things you do to protect your children and your family. How do you see God as our protector?

Lesson 20

Knowing God Lesson 20, Pt. 2

Purpose: God pursues Moses and reveals to him who He is. This is the start of Moses's relationship with God that we will see grow and develop.

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-21, 4:1-20

Material: None needed

Lesson:

Ask: How long does it take for you to feel like you know someone? What needs to happen to get to know someone? Take a few minutes to talk about it.

Today we are going to look at someone who God called, but who did not know God. We are going to see that, like with Noah, Abraham, and others, God is going to start the relationship and allow this person time to get to know and grow in the knowledge of Him. Do you have a guess who this might be, from the last lesson?

It is Moses! We left off last week hearing about the trouble Moses had gotten himself into. He tried, without God's help, to save his people, and went about it the wrong way. Moses had to run away from Pharaoh. Pharaoh was angry and wanted to hurt Moses for what Moses had done. Moses ran into the desert to hide. There, he met a family who took him in. He married one of the daughters and took up a life of tending sheep. He went from living in a palace to living among sheep. What a change in Moses' life, but remember God has a plan for His people, and He is going to use Moses to bring it about. How do you think God gets Moses's attention?

Read Exodus 3:1-6

God uses a burning bush to draw Moses's attention, and once He has it, He speaks to him. It says that God called to Moses from the bush, and told Moses to remove his sandals, for the place that he was standing was holy ground. The act of being barefoot before someone back then showed humility and submission. God allowed Moses to see His Holiness. Moses had probably heard about God, but never knew God. God reveals Himself to Moses and draws him into a relationship with Himself. Moses did not go out seeking God, he was content hiding in the desert tending sheep.

Read Exodus 3:7-12

Now God talks to Moses about His love for His people, and His desire to use Moses to bring about their deliverance. Again, we see God taking the time to tell Moses what He is going to do and what is going to happen. God is always sharing His plan that He has had before He created the world and reveals to man how He will bring it about. Moses, though, wasn't on board with this plan. Remember how he had run away? Well, Moses does not have a good

understanding of who God is and how much greater God is than Pharaoh. What do you think God will do about this for Moses? Let us read on.

Read Exodus 3:13-14

Israel have been slaves now for 400 years. This was who and what they were used to being. God was sending Moses to these people, a people who did not know him or God. Moses is trying to find excuses not to go, but God patiently tells Moses who He is and how to communicate that to the people. God gives Moses instructions to reveal the name “I Am” to the people. This is so powerful that we can never really understand the full meaning of the name.

Ask: What are some things that you know about God? Take time to talk about them. Then say there is so much more that we don't know about God, but like with Moses, we are being invited into a relationship with Him, one where God will reveal to us who He is.

God is supreme. God is perfectly Holy. God is everywhere. God knows everything. God is almighty. God is faithful and unchanging. God is the judge and avenges all evil. God is loving, kind and gracious. God communicates and initiates. (Taken from Knowing God Lesson 20)

Read Exodus 3:15-21

God tells Moses what is going to happen, and how it is going to happen. He doesn't tell Moses to go and free the people and expect him to figure out the details. No, instead God tells Moses what is going to happen in detail, and how it will end.

Read Exodus 4:1-20

God knew that Moses and the people of Israel would not be able to just blindly believe in Him and His promises. He lovingly gives signs to Moses and to Israel, to prove His power. God shows that He is a living God and is aware of the situation. He tells Moses who He is, and His power. Moses is struggling to have faith in someone who he doesn't really know or understand yet, and God is patient with him. He lets Moses know through his father-in-law that the people who wanted to harm him are gone. God has made Egypt safe for Moses. He also gives Moses someone to help him talk to the people, who knows the people, and that is Moses's brother Aaron. God provides an answer for every one of Moses's fears and excuses and shows Moses that he can trust Him.

Ask: What are some ways that you have seen that you can trust God?

Activity: Divide the children into two groups and have them remove their shoes. Take their shoes to the opposite side of the room and make a pile out of them. Have the children line up across from the pile of shoes and when you say “go”, the first child will run to try to find their shoes, put them on, and race back. The first team who finds all their shoes and are wearing them wins.

For the parents: Read Exodus Chapters 3 and 4 and talk about the ways in which God prepared Moses to go to Egypt.

Lesson 21

Knowing God Lesson 21

Purpose: God shows his power and sovereignty to Israel. They watch as God takes a mighty nation and brings them to their knees.

Scripture: Exodus 4:29-31, Exodus 5:1-23, Exodus 6:1-13, Exodus 7:14-25, Exodus 8:1-15, Exodus 8:16-19, Exodus 8: 20-23, Exodus 9:1-7, Exodus 9:8-12, Exodus 9:13-35, Exodus 10:1-6, Exodus 10: 21-23

Material: Write out the names of the first nine plagues on separate pieces of paper. Water turned to blood, frogs, gnats, flies, dead livestock, boils, hail, locusts, and darkness. Tape them to the wall or board and cover them with another piece of paper.

Lesson:

Before the kids come in, have the first nine plagues written out on pieces of paper, put the plagues on the wall and cover them up. As you go through the lesson you will uncover each plague to reveal what is underneath.

How does God get two nations and Moses to know Him and who He is? Today we are going to look at how God does just that. God uses Moses to be a mouthpiece to both the Egyptians and to the Israelites as He reveals who He is to both.

Read Exodus 4:29-31 and Exodus 5 :1-2

Aaron and Moses went to the Israelites' elders and told them what God was about to do. They showed the signs that God had given to Moses, and they believed and worshiped God. Then Aaron and Moses went before Pharaoh and asked him to let the people go worship, and Pharaoh states the truth. He does not know God.

Read Exodus 5:4-23

Pharaoh did not know God. In fact, back in these times it was believed by the Egyptian people that Pharaoh was a God! Pharaoh increased the labor of the Israelites to show his power and make their suffering greater. This caused the people to grumble against Moses and caused Moses to turn to God and question Him. What is going on here? Isn't God supposed to be freeing Israel? It seems like things are getting worse, instead of better. This is like our life. When things are going well, we praise God for it, but when things seem to be going poorly we blame or question God. It is in these moments that God shows up and reveals Himself to us. Let's take a look at God's response.

Read Exodus 6:1-13

God tells Moses again what He is about to do and reminds Moses of who He is. Israel is burdened and does not want to hear it, and Moses is not too willing to go again before Pharaoh and cause more issues. Both Moses and the people are focused on their problems,

and not who God is and what He will do. God sends Moses and Aaron once again before Pharaoh, and this is where God reveals Himself to not only Moses but to Israel, Egypt, and even Pharaoh himself.

Plague 1

Remove the cover from the paper to reveal the words, Water turned to blood.

Read Exodus 7:14-25

Every morning, Pharaoh went to the Nile to offer his daily worship to what he believed was a God. The Nile was beloved by the Egyptians as the source of life. They worshiped it for that reason. God struck the Nile, showing His power over this Egyptian false god. The water turned to blood for 7 days, making the Nile undrinkable, smelly, and killing all that was in it. But because Pharaoh's magicians could do the same, Pharaoh paid no mind.

Plague 2

Remove the cover off to reveal the word, Frogs.

Exodus 8:1-15

Moses warns Pharaoh that if he does not let the people go, there will be a plague of frogs. Pharaoh does not listen, and so God sends the frogs. Pharaoh's magicians can do the same, but there is a problem. They cannot make them go away! Pharaoh has to turn to Moses and Aaron and ask them to talk to God to get rid of the frogs. God does as Moses asks, and leaves piles of dead, stinking frogs all over Egypt.

Plague 3

Remove the cover from the third paper to reveal Gnats.

Read Exodus 8:16-19

God tells Moses to tell Aaron to stretch out his staff, and this produces swarms of gnats all over Egypt. Gnats are small, annoying flies. The magicians could not do what God had done and had to admit that this was the hand of God. Pharaoh hardened his heart against God. God struck Egypt by taking all the dust of the land and turning it into gnats. That is a lot of gnats!

Plague 4

Remove the cover from the fourth paper to reveal Flies.

Read Exodus 8:20-32

God fills Egypt with flies. These flies bite the people of Egypt but not Israel. God separates out His people from among the people of Egypt, and keeps them safe, showing the Egyptians

that He is who He says He is, the God of Israel. God shows Pharaoh His power, and it seems like Pharaoh is finally ready to listen to God, but no. Once Pharaoh gets what he wants then he changes his mind and hardens his heart against God again.

Plague 5

Remove the cover from the fifth paper and reveal Dead livestock.

Read Exodus 9:1-7

God struck the livestock of Egypt and made their animals get sick and die, but He did not touch Israel's. Pharaoh had to send someone to check, but after hearing what God had done, still hardened his heart against God.

Plague 6

Remove the next paper and reveal the word, Boils.

Read Exodus 9:8-12

Boils are sores that appear on the body. They are painful. God struck the Egyptians with this plague by using the soot from the kilns that Israel had used to make bricks for Pharaoh. It was bad enough that Pharaoh's magicians could do nothing, they couldn't even stand, yet Pharaoh kept his heart hardened.

Plague 7

Remove the paper and reveal the word, Hail.

Read Exodus 9:13-35

God warns Pharaoh about what He is about to do and what will happen. God tells Pharaoh that this is going to be so bad that it has never been seen before and will be talked about by other nations. God tells Pharaoh that He has given grace so far, but these next plagues are going to hurt. Pharaoh does not listen, and God sends the hail. It destroys their food and their homes, but Pharaoh's heart remains hardened.

Plague 8

Remove the eighth paper and reveal the word, Locusts.

Read Exodus 10:1-6

God warns Pharaoh again about what He is about to do. Pharaoh does not listen, and God sends the locusts, which are like big, hungry grasshoppers. They eat everything that is left that the hail did not get. Egypt is now without livestock, food, and has a lot of damage, yet

Pharaoh still hardens his heart. Israel is undamaged and has all of what they need to survive. Will God get through to Pharaoh, do you think? Let us find out.

Plague 9

Remove the paper to reveal the word, Darkness.

Read Exodus 10:21-23

God covers the land in total darkness, dark enough that the Egyptians are afraid to move. God gave Israel light, though. Again, Pharaoh hardened his heart and broke his word to let the people go.

God is supreme. Nothing under heaven or Earth can diminish His authority. His word is dependable, and His plans are unstoppable. Yet Pharaoh refused to obey God's commands.

What do you think it will take for God to get through to the heart of Pharaoh? God could have just wiped Egypt off the map by now and been done with them, but He has lovingly spared them and shown them who He is. We have one more plague to go. Do you think that God will get through to Pharaoh, and do you think Pharaoh will finally let God's people go? We will find out next week what God does to get Pharaoh's attention.

Activity: Have the children pair up into teams of two. One person is the doctor, the other is the patient. Doctor and patient goes through the plagues and the patient tells the doctor what is happening to them. The doctor then tries to find a cure for what they think is wrong with them. Have them switch roles and see if the other person can cure the patient. At the end ask who they think will cure them of the plagues

For the Parents:

Talk to your kids about a time you were sick. How did it start? How did you feel? Who did you go to when you were sick? Would you have needed the doctor if you were not sick? How did the sickness change you?

Lesson 22

Knowing God Lesson 21, Pt. 2

Purpose: To look at the Passover and gain an understanding of what it was, and compare it to Jesus's death.

Scripture: **Exodus** 11, 12:29-32, Exodus 12:1-28

Material: All ten plagues on paper from last week.

Lesson:

Have all the uncovered words from last week up on the wall, with the 10th plague covered up. Ask the children to tell you what happened last week.

Today we are going to look at the last plague that God sent on Egypt. For Israel, it would be a picture of the coming Deliverer.

Plague 10:

Uncover the words Death of the Firstborn

Read Exodus 11, 12:29-32

God once again warned Pharaoh what He was about to do. It was going to be terrible and deadly. Pharaoh once again hardened his heart against God. God did what He promised and sent the angel of death. All the firstborn of Egypt died, down to their cattle. This included Pharaoh's own son. Pharaoh was broken and told Moses to take his people and possessions and go. The people were finally free, by God's hand.

But wait a minute, we are missing a major part of the story. What happened in Israel when all this happened? God used this plague to teach them something, too. Let us take a look at that.

Read Exodus 12:1-28

The people of Israel were to go and find a lamb that was without blemish, male and a year old. If they didn't have a family big enough to have a lamb, they were to share with another family. The lamb would be sacrificed, and its blood spilled. The blood was then taken and painted above the door posts of the houses of Israel. The Israelites would have to have faith that the blood on their doorposts would save them. The blood would be seen by the angel when he came through, and the angel would spare anybody inside that house. He would pass over the house.

God gave more instructions on how to eat their lamb. They had to eat it that night, with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They had to cook it whole and serve it while being ready to leave.

So, what does that mean for us? It is a picture of Christ! God gave a way of deliverance to Israel as well as to us. The lamb is symbolic of Jesus, who was God's perfect lamb. Israel had to sacrifice their lamb to save them from death, just as Jesus died to save us from eternal death. The lamb, when sacrificed, could not have any bones broken, and neither did Jesus. The lamb's blood was what was used to cover their doorposts to save Israel. Jesus bled for us, and His blood covers our sins and saves us. We, like Israel, must put our faith in the sacrifice that Jesus made as He bled and died, and that it will save us.

What a great picture Israel had of what Jesus was going to do. They were to celebrate this every year, in remembrance of what God did to deliver them. They would pass this story down through the generations. When Jesus finally arrived and died for the sins of the world, they would be able to grasp the picture of what God did. We will talk about this in a couple lessons when we talk about Jesus.

Pharaoh let the people go, and Israel was finally ready to leave. They gathered up their possessions and left Egypt. There was a great exodus of the people from Egypt. We will take a look at this over the next couple lessons, but what a great picture of God's deliverance and keeping His promise.

Have the children act out the Passover story. If you have time, they can act out the whole story of the plagues.

Activity: Play freeze tag. Have one person be it. They run around chasing the other kids. Once they are tagged, they freeze in place. Someone who is not the tagger can come along and untag them so that they are unfrozen. After you play, discuss the game. How did it feel to be frozen? Who saved you when you were frozen? How did it feel to be freezing people, or unfreezing people? Who really unfreezes us so we can live forever in Heaven?

Parents: Take time to pray with your kids this week. Thank God for sending Jesus to be the lamb that was sacrificed, instead of us. Read the story of the Passover.

Lesson 23

Knowing God Lesson 22

Purpose: God continues to fight for the Israelites against Pharaoh and his army. God shows that He takes care of His people, as well as showing who He is to them. Israel seems to have a poor memory of Who God is and what He has done.

Scripture: Exodus 14:1-31, Exodus 16:1-21, Ephesians 1:4-19

Material: Paper and something to draw with. Crayons, pencils, etc.

Lesson:

Last week, we left off with Israel leaving Egypt, and today we will continue that story.

Read Exodus 14:1-10

Pharaoh changed his mind about letting Israel go. He heard about them making their way to the sea and decided to go after them. He got his armies and chariots ready and chased them. Israel was not a fighting nation, they had been slaves, and never taught to fight. They were camped against the sea with nowhere to go. With Pharaoh and his army in front of them and the sea behind them, they were trapped. Oh no, what are they going to do?

Have you ever felt like you were in an impossible situation? Tell me about it, how did it turn out?

Read Exodus 14:13-18

Moses pointed the people back to the Lord. He reminded them that God would fight with them, and there was nothing they had to do. Today, when we face what seems impossible, we have to remember the promises of God. He will fight for us. We as Christians will struggle sometimes with sin, and sometimes forget what God has done for us. When we see what we call our sea, it seems impossible to go through, and we cry out to God to help us. We have to remember that God gave us everything we needed when we accepted Christ into our life. We as Christians, like the Israelites, forget what God has done and given us because we allow fear to rule instead of Christ.

What are some things you are afraid of? What are some things that you ask God to help you with? What can you do to remember that God is with you and has already given you what you need to live life as a Christian?

Read Exodus 14:19-22

What it must have been like, to see God part the sea! What a great picture of God's power and love. God moved the cloud to block Egypt's path, causing darkness and fog on the side of Egypt, but light on the side of Israel. God made a way of deliverance where there seemed not

to be one. Israel did nothing, and God did all the work for them. It's the same thing God has done through all the stories we have learned about until now. Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham... God has not changed, He is still the same, and keeps His promises.

Read Exodus 14:23-31

Israel was saved from Egypt. They crossed the sea, and Egypt was prevented from following them. Israel worshiped God. They had a great picture of who God was and what He was like, and how He loved them. This is also another picture for us of how God delivers us.

God set Israel free but did it by using Moses to deliver them. God set us free by sending Jesus to deliver us. Through God's power and might Israel was set free, and through Jesus's power and work at the Cross we are delivered.

Israel's deliverance brought about the judgement of Egypt, for us Jesus's death brings judgement on those who do not believe in Him.

Israel is free from Egypt forever, and we are free from Satan's authority as well. Israel was set free, and we have also been set free through God's power, and only by Him doing something for us.

Israel should be doing great now, right? They should remember all God has done for them and remember that God will fight for them.

Let's read Exodus 16:1-21

As Israel moved away from the sea, they forgot what God had done for them. One month after leaving the sea, they face another hardship and forget what God had done. They grumble and complain that they are going to die because they have no food. They were only brought out into the wilderness to die. It would have been better to be back in Egypt as slaves.

What are some hardships we face as Christians today? Do they turn us towards God, or do we tend to grumble about them when we face them? We lose sight of what God has done for us, and His love for us. We then grumble about what God is not doing for us. We allow what is happening to affect us, instead of allowing God to.

God provided food for Israel, and later water also, when they grumbled. God again shows them that He provides and keeps His promises. He promised Israel that He would get them to the promised land, just as He promised us that He would get us to heaven. Israel lost focus on that promise, and instead focused on the hardships that faced them. When we face hardships today, we need to remember to focus on the promises of God, and that God will get us through them.

Activity: Hand out a piece of paper and some crayons or other drawing material. Have the children draw a heart, then cut out the heart. On the heart they have drawn, have them write down everything that they can think of that God has given them. For example, gifts, people, material things, talents. Once they are done, talk about it and read Ephesians 1:4-19 to them.

For the Parents: Read Ephesians 1:4-19 and write down different things we receive because Jesus came to save us.

Lesson 24

Knowing God Lesson 23

Purpose: To take a look at the ten commandments and gain an understanding that we cannot live up to the law.

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-15, Read Exodus 20:1-17, Romans 3:10-12

Material: List out the ten commandments on a piece of paper, so that the children can see them.

Lesson:

Do you have rules in your house? Tell me about them. Why do you think we have rules? Today we are going to talk about God giving Israel their own set of rules.

God has been faithful to do as He promised. Do you remember back when Moses encounters God in the burning bush? What was the promise that God made to Moses? He promised that He would bring Israel out of Egypt and has done just that. God did a lot to show Moses and Israel that He can be trusted and that He loves them. He has set Israel free, fed them, clothed them, and shown them the way.

Read Exodus 19:1-15

God is calling Israel to be His people, a nation that is wholly God's. God brought Israel to Himself just like He brings us as Christians to Himself. We don't seek God; God seeks us out and draws us to Him.

Up until this point, there had been no rules, just God taking care of the people of Israel. No conditions or demands were placed on Israel. It was all God giving, and Israel doing nothing. Sounds great, right? To have God do everything, and all they have to do is follow where God leads?

Israel was offered a choice. Would they follow and obey God's commands? They all agreed to it, and we see here that God instantly starts setting boundaries and giving them rules to live by. Israel chose the same as Cain did. They believed that they could please God by trying to live up to His standard the way that they thought best. We know that no one can do so!

Read Exodus 20:1-17

Activity: Write out the ten commandments and ask the children to give a thumbs up if they have never done it, and a thumbs down if they have broken that commandment. If there is any confusion about what a commandment is take time to explain it to them.

God gave Israel this set of rules to live by. Do you think that you can keep these? (If the children say yes, then ask them if they have ever told a lie or disobeyed their parents, even just a little.) Breaking just one of these commandments means that you broke them all. We cannot live up to God's expectations without God's help. Israel thought that they could keep all of these, and please God. This is just like people today who believe they can do things to please God. Just telling a lie gets us in trouble. If we try to live by the law, we will die by the law.

We need God's grace, and to realize that we cannot live up to God's standard without His help.

Read Romans 3:10-12

Only by faith in Christ can we live up to the standard set by God. Over the next couple weeks, we will learn just how hard it is for Israel to keep their promise to follow all of God's laws, and just how much all of us need Jesus to help us.

For the parents: Read the ten commandments with your child and talk about if you as a parent are able to keep all the commandments.

Lesson 25

Knowing God Lessons 24 and 25

Purpose: To take an in depth look at the meaning behind the tabernacle and the items within.

Scripture: Exodus 25:1-9, Exodus 27:1-8, Exodus 30:17-21, Exodus 25:31-40

Material: Paper and something to draw with.

Lesson:

Read Exodus 25:1-9

God gives Moses instructions that He wants Israel to build a place for Him to live among the people. He wants it made out of materials that He describes, but only if Israel will give them for His place willingly. If Israel did not give the materials for God's place, then Israel would not have the privilege of having God dwell among them. When they build it, they will have to make it according to God's instructions. This place would be called the tabernacle, the place where people could bring sacrifices and worship God.

Israel represents us, a sinful human race. God is God, and is holy, righteous. Both are separated by the sinfulness of the people. The tabernacle was made so that the people would be able to come to God and worship Him without their sin in between them.

Let us take a tour of the tabernacle and see what God has made. Let's use our imagination as I describe this to you.

As we approach the tabernacle, what do you think would be the first thing we see? It's the same that we see when we approach a house or a store. That's right, an entrance! There was only one door into the courtyard that the people of Israel could use. Why do you think that was? There is only one way to come to God, just like Jesus said for believers. The person who was sorry for their sins would bring their sacrifice and enter through the one door. We as believers are convicted of our sin, and bring it before God through Jesus, the only way to the Father.

As we pass through the entrance, we next see the bronze altar. Read Exodus 27:1-8. This is where the sinner would make a sacrifice, to have the blood cover their sin. Remember back to Adam and Eve, where we talked about God killing the animal to make clothes for them? This is the same. The animals were a visual for the people, to remind them that the punishment for sin is death, but the animal was allowed to take their place. The people would bring their sacrifice and lay their hands on the animal while the animal would be used to take their place and cover their sins. This would allow the people to come before God sinless. The blood of the animal covered the sin. Jesus is our lamb who was sacrificed. It is because of His blood that was shed for us that we can approach God without sin.

Next up on our tour we have the bronze laver. Read Exodus 30:17-21

This was as far as people who were not priests were allowed to go. The rest was carried out by the priests for the people. The priests were the people who went before God on behalf of the rest of the people. After making the sacrifice for the people, the priest would then have to go wash himself in the laver. This made the priest clean and pure so that he could go serve God in the tabernacle. This represents what happens for us after we become believers. We believe that Christ died for our sins, then we are cleansed by His words we find in the Bible.

Now as we leave the laver, we approach the Holy Place. This was only allowed to be entered by the priests who had sacrificed and washed at the laver. In the holy place were three items. The first was the table of showbread. Once a week, on the Sabbath, the priests would place 12 loaves of bread on the table. This was representative of the 12 tribes of Israel and the relationship they had with God. This represents for us believers our relationship with God. Jesus is our bread of life. Next, we have the altar of incense. The priests burned incense on this altar every morning and every evening. They were only allowed to burn a special kind of incense on the altar. This was symbolic of the prayers and the praise that were being offered by the people. This is symbolic for us today, as we too can offer prayer and praise to God ourselves because of Christ's death on the cross. That comes from our position in Christ- only because of Him do we have the ability to praise and pray to God.

Next up, we have the lamp stand. Read Exodus 25:31-40. The lamp stood for light, and for the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the light of the world, and the source of all truth. For us as believers, we are called to be light and to share the truth with everyone. The oil in the lamp stand used to keep the lamp stand bright is representative of the Holy Spirit. When we become believers, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us and causes us to shine our light for others to see and be drawn to Jesus.

Finally, we come to the Holy of Holies. This is where God's presence dwelt and was only entered once a year. This contained the Ark of the Covenant. The High Priest would enter once a year, and place blood on the mercy seat. This was a mediation between God and Israel. It allowed Israel as a whole to be forgiven every year for their sins. Jesus's death provides mediation between us and God for our sins, forever.

The last thing we are going to look at is the priests themselves. They were the mediators for the people. They carried out the work for the people, to help them become acceptable to God. Jesus is our high priest and helps us to become acceptable to God.

Activity: Give out paper and things to draw with, crayons, pencils etc. Have them draw what they saw as you described the tabernacle. When everyone is done, have them explain to the group what they drew.

For Parents: Read Hebrews 10:19-23, and pray with your child, thanking Jesus for being our tabernacle and our High Priest. Thank Him for being able to talk to Him at any time and from anywhere.

Lesson 26

Knowing God Lesson 26

Purpose: Looking at what happens when we do not trust God and His promises, but instead trust in our own understanding.

Scripture: Exodus 40:35-38, Numbers 13:1-3 and 17-33, Numbers 14:1-10, Numbers 14:11-25, Numbers 14:26-45

Material: None needed

Lesson:

Ask: Have you ever been on a long journey? Where did you go, and what did you do? At the end of your long journey, were you excited to get home?

Today we are going to learn about Israel's journey, and how God brought them to the land He promised them.

Read Exodus 40:35-38

The Israelites depended on God to lead them. God was with them throughout their entire journey. During the day He led them with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire. They could always see that God was with them. Whenever God moved, the Israelites moved, and when God stopped, they would set up camp and rest. What a great way to travel, to have God leading you. Even though God was always with them, leading them, the Israelites were doubting, complaining, and disbelieving Him. God, though, was faithful and loving to them, and continued to lead them. He never abandoned them.

God led the Israelites to the land He promised them, the land He gave to Abraham.

Read Numbers 13:1-3 and 17-33

God told Moses to send some people from each tribe to go and scout out the Promised Land and bring back a report. What was their report back? They focused more on the problem than on the promise God gave them. They forgot God, who got them out of Egypt, parted the Red Sea, fed them, provided for them, and led them. They did not believe that God would continue to help them. That is a lot like us today. There are times that we are doing great in our walk with Christ, but then we see trouble coming, and we become fearful. Like the ten spies, we forget what God has done for us and let fear rule instead of being ruled by Christ, who has promised to be with us always, through everything. We do not believe that Christ can, or will, handle our problems. The best thing we can do as Christians is to get to know God and the promises He made, so that when trouble comes, we turn to Him instead of our unbelief.

Read Numbers 14:1-10

Instead of listening to the two spies who told of the goodness of God, Israel decided to listen to the ten spies who were afraid. They became fearful and didn't believe God could or would give them the land. They called God a liar and accused Him of bringing them there to die! When Joshua and Caleb tried to remind Israel of the goodness of God, they wanted to stone them. Wow! That is going a bit far, but we do the same thing when things happen in our lives that we can't control, and we don't believe that God is working in our best interest. Sometimes, we even get mad at others who try to remind us that He is.

Have you ever been so afraid of something that you went and hid? Tell us about it. How do you think you could have trusted God to help you with your fear? What do you know is true of God that could help you next time you are afraid? (Take some time to write down some promises that the kids remember or add some that they don't remember that God gives them in the Bible. See Knowing God Lesson 26 for more help on this.)

Read Numbers 14:11-25

God shows His anger because of the complaints and accusations of Israel. It seems like Moses has to calm Him down, right? No, this is God showing Israel more of who He is and allowing them to see that He does not like sin, but He still forgives and wants the relationship with them. God will have to punish their unbelief but will also work with Israel to help them learn who He is and bring them deeper into a relationship with Himself. Remember, God is a loving God, but like our parents who also love us, He needs to punish sin to allow us to learn and grow.

Read Numbers 14:26-45

Remember Genesis 8:21? Recite this verse with the children. This is what happened here. Israel decided they did not need God, nor did they believe they wouldn't be given the land for another 40 years because of their actions. They tried to go against God and take the land. It didn't go well for them. Israel would now have to wander for 40 years in the desert. This would allow them to learn more about God, and who He is. God would try again later with another generation, one that would grow up in the next 40 years knowing God and seeing His provision. During these 40 years, there would be a lot of complaining and groaning, but also a lot of God teaching them who He is and helping them to know Him.

Activity: Have the children act out the story they just heard. Assign kids to different roles from the story and see how much they remember.

For the Parents:

Read through Numbers 20 and 21 and talk about how God led Israel to know Him, so that they could trust Him. Pray with your child asking God to help you see Him in all your circumstances.

Lesson 27

Taken from Knowing God Lessons 27 and 28

Purpose: To take a look at the cycle that Israel has fallen into. Sin, repentance, following God, back to sin. This lesson will give a brief overview of the history of Israel.

Scripture: Judges 2:14-20, Samuel 8:1-9, 2 Kings 17:5-18, Malachi 4:2

Material: Have a long piece of rope with a marker in the middle for tug of war game.

Lesson:

Remind the children of Genesis 8:21, that the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth. Let us keep this in mind as we talk about today's story. Today we are going to look at a snapshot of history. We are going to cover a lot of ground and look at a big chunk of history. When you look at pictures you can see a story being told. Today we are going to look at a bunch of events that happened in Israel's big picture as a nation and their relationship with God.

Israel's generation that had doubted that God would get them into the promised land had now passed away. It was time for this new generation to go forth and take the promised land. Joshua was now in charge. Moses had in anger disobeyed God and because of that sin Moses would not enter the promised land. God allowed him to see it from afar before he died, but the role of taking Israel into the land became Joshua's.

Joshua led the people in and had them focused on God and serving God. When Joshua died though Israel turned their back on God once more. They followed the ways of the people around them worshiping other gods and putting God aside as their God.

Read Judges 2:14-20

Israel had entered this endless cycle of following God to not follow God and rejecting Him. Israel sins and turns from God, God sends punishment to get their attention and turn back to Him, God sends a Judge to help them, they follow God until the judge dies. Sin is a huge problem in the heart of Israel. This pattern will continue through the prophets and up until Israel ultimately rejects Jesus.

Ask: Have you ever been rejected by someone? Give time for answers. Ask: Not wanted for something? Give time for responses. Ask: How did that make you feel?

God feels Israel's rejection but unlike Israel God is faithful and keeps His promise to Israel. He sends punishment but He protects them and keeps them a nation that will one day bring about the Messiah.

At the end of the times of the Judges a prophet appears named Samuel.

Read Samuel 8:1-9

Israel wants a King. They want to be like everyone else and have a king rule over them. Have you ever wanted to be someone else because you thought that their life was better? That is just like Israel. They did not want God ruling them but a person. God told Samuel to give them what they want, and this began the time of the kings.

Saul was chosen to be the first king followed by David, then Solomon. After Solomon died Israel was split into two kingdoms. The 10 northern tribes formed one kingdom called Israel and the other two tribes formed the kingdom of Judah. Both kingdoms had 20 kings each. All the kings of Israel were evil and rejected God, some of the kings of Judah were good. Only one king was a king after God's own heart and that was David. A man that murdered and took another person's wife, but God calls him a man after His own heart. It wasn't David's wrong doings that made him so, it was the fact that David knew God and glorified Him above himself. David depended on God and who God was and ruled the people so that they saw and glorified God.

Israel once again has fallen into rejecting God after David. He sends people called prophets to warn the people to turn back to Him. He is after Israel's heart and a relationship with His chosen people, but evil rules in their hearts and they reject Him. God warns but also reminds them of His promise to send a deliverer who will deliver them from their sinful ways. God uses the prophets to both warn and remind them of the promise. The people of course do not listen to the warnings. Have your parents ever told you to stop doing something or else? What would happen if you didn't stop? They punished you. Why? To correct a behavior that was not good for you. God does the same for Israel to turn them from their evil ways and bring them back to Him. He punishes them by sending first the Assyrians to the kingdom of Israel. They are captured by the Assyrians.

Read 2 Kings 17:5-18

Many of the Israelites stayed in their country and married people from other lands. These people became known as the Samaritans.

God also warned Judah to turn from their sinful ways. Do you think they did? That's right, they didn't. God sent the Babylonians who took them captive back to Babylonia. This was the time period that the Israelites became known as Jews. After 70 years of captivity, they were allowed back to their homeland. Do you think that Israel learned their lesson? Nope, God continued to send people to conquer and rule over Israel. Greeks, Romans, nations that worshiped many false gods but allowed the Jews to continue to worship God.

With Rome in control of the Jews the stage is now set for something very special to occur. Do you know what that is? The time for Jesus to come.

Read Malachi 4:2

God speaks one more time to the Jews and then goes silent for 400 years. Out of rebellion comes a savior, a light to the darkness.

Activity: Tug of war: Have a long piece of rope with knots tied in the end. In the middle have a marker of some sort. Put lines on the floor equal distance apart where two teams will stand equal distance apart. Split the children into two groups. Have one group take one side of the rope, and the other group the other side. Have them pick up the rope and hold it so that the marker in the middle of the rope is in the middle. When you say go have the teams try to pull each other over their line. The team that succeeds wins. Explain to the children that sometimes we are in a tug of war battle. We want to do what God wants but we also want to do what we want. We feel tugged in one direction or another and ultimately one side will win out. How do we learn to allow God's side to win?

For the Parents: Talk to your children about how you make the right choices. Do you ever struggle to make the right choice?

Lesson 28
Knowing God Lessons 29 to 31

Purpose: To look at the people who God used before, during, and after Jesus' birth to bring about His plan for the Savior being born.

Scripture: Luke 1:5-17, Luke 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-19, Matthew 1:20-24, Luke 2:1-21

Material: None needed.

Lesson:

When this lesson begins, God has been silent for 400 years. Israel has not been given any new prophets carrying messages, plans, or commands from Him. That is a long time for God to be quiet. What do you think He was doing during this time? He was preparing the world for the coming of the Deliverer. Through the Greek people who conquered the Jewish empire, we got one common language that everyone could use. Through the Romans who took control after the Greeks, we got the connection of different cities through roads and government. The Jews themselves brought synagogues to the different cities around the world. The synagogues would bring the Old Testament stories and the messages of the prophets to the cities the Jews had moved to and built them in. Everything was ready for the coming of the Deliverer.

God speaks to a couple different people, just before the unfolding of His plan that has been in place since He created the world. We are going to look at each of these people and see how God lovingly communicates His plans and, how He chooses people that the world would not use to bring about His plan.

The first person we will look at is a man named Zacharias, a faithful priest in Israel who lived just before the birth of Christ, and his wife Elizabeth. Let us take a look at His story and see how God chooses to use him to bring about part of His plan.

Read Luke 1:5-17

Zacharias and his wife could not have children. They were now old when God told them they would be parents. It must have been hard for them to live without being parents. People back then saw it as a curse from God if you didn't have any children. Both of them had a sin nature, but God tells us that they were both blameless and righteous before Him. God did not choose to use Zacharias and Elizabeth for this reason, God chose them so that it was evident that it was His doing. No person could make them have a child at this age, only God could, with the outpouring of His grace. When people would look at them now, they would know this child was brought about by God. God was going to use these two people to bring into the world the greatest prophet who ever lived, to prepare people for the coming of Jesus. What a great blessing God gave these two. People who the world thought were cursed, God blessed.

Read Luke 1:18-25

Zacharias had given up hope that he would have a child, as we can see by what he said to the angel. He doubted this could happen, so God gave him a sign that would help him believe and strengthen his faith. He made it so Zacharias could not speak until John was born, to show him that he can trust God to carry out His promises. Elizabeth is so excited that people would not call her cursed anymore, but blessed, and God allows her to focus on that blessing. It was so evident that God was in this that there was no doubt in people's minds. When it came time for John to make way for the Savior, they would know it was from God.

The next person we will look at is Mary.

Read Luke 1:26-38

God sends an angel to Mary to deliver a message. God has chosen Mary to bring the Deliverer into the world. Mary was just like us, as described in Genesis 8:21. Can anyone recite that for me? Every thought and intent of her heart was only evil from childhood. We see that Mary knows this when she calls God her Savior and acknowledges her need for a Savior. God tells her how Jesus is to be born, saying that the Holy Spirit would make her with child. This way Jesus would not be born in sin like us, but be born perfect, as God would be His Father. He would be called the Son of the Most High, making it clear that Jesus would be God's Son. Mary accepts this and allows God to work in her life to greatly bless her. Jesus would be the coming Deliverer that was promised to Adam and Eve, and it was unfolding just as God told the prophets it would. God always keeps His promises, and His plan is never deterred.

The last person we are going to look at is Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Read Matthew 1:18-19

Mary was already promised to Joseph in marriage when she received her visit from the angel. In Joseph's time, an engagement was as binding as marriage. Imagine being Joseph, and seeing the person you are promised to spend the rest of your life coming back from visiting her pregnant cousin, telling these wild stories about an angel and babies. It would be hard to believe, but instead of shaming her Joseph decided to quietly break off the engagement. He could have had her stoned publicly, but he decided to handle ending the engagement quietly. Then God intervened.

Read Matthew 1:20-24

God explains to Joseph what was going on. He took the time to send an angel to Joseph and allow him to see that God was using Mary to bring about His plan. God didn't have to do that, but He did. God didn't need Joseph to bring about His plan, but God chose to use him to raise Jesus and be a father figure in Jesus's life. The angel instructs Joseph on what to call Jesus, Immanuel, which means God is with us. Joseph took Mary to be his wife and was an earthly father to Jesus.

Now the stage is set for the coming of Jesus into the world. God used people the world would not expect to bring about His plan to save the world. None of these people chose to do this, God chose them.

Read Luke 2:1-21

Jesus is born, and God chooses shepherds to be the ones to spread the word that the Deliverer had come. Shepherds are among the lowest people in Jewish society. They live with sheep, and worse, they smell like sheep! People try to avoid them as much as possible, but God chose to send the angels to them to announce the wonderful news that the Savior had been born. Isn't that awesome?

God's plan to send Jesus to save us, is finally coming to pass. God keeps His promises, and He is sovereign. Where else have we seen God exercise His sovereignty?

1. Plan of Redemption
2. Creation
3. Placing Adam and Eve in the Garden
4. Choosing Abraham
5. Choosing Moses
6. Choosing Israel as a nation
7. Choosing the prophets
8. Choosing Mary to be the one to carry the Deliverer.

Activity: Christian Story Interview

Have students pair up and ask each other the following questions. They'll then present their partner's answers as a reporter. They can write the answers down if they want.

What is your name?

How old are you?

When did you first hear about Jesus?

When was the first time you went to a church?

When was the first time you came to this church?

Why do you believe in Jesus?

How does your family celebrate Jesus's birth during Christmas?

For the parents:

Read Luke 2:40-51. Talk about Jesus's childhood and talk about what you think it must have been like to grow up around Jesus. He was sinless and holy, faithful, righteous, wise, kind, loving, etc. How would you think Mary, Joseph and their family felt raising Him?

Lesson 29 John the Baptist

Knowing God Lesson 31-32

Purpose: To look at the religious leaders in the time of Jesus and learn about who they really are.

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-10

Material: 3 areas that are able to be set up. One table for John the Baptist, one for the religious leaders, and one for Jesus. Each area will have its own props that relate to that person. For John the Baptist you will need: a picture of a locust, some honey or a picture of honey, rough clothing, a belt, and a bag of sand or dirt. For the religious leaders, you will have the three groups listed across a sheet of paper, Pharisee, Sadducee, and Scribe. Have space under each name for writing to compare each of the groups with one another. The last table will be for Jesus. You will need a crown or a picture of a crown, a scroll (a piece of paper rolled to look like a scroll), and a picture of a lamb.

Lesson:

Today, we are going to look at some people and groups of people. The first person we are going to look at is John the Baptist. (Walk over to John's area or table). What can you tell me about John the Baptist? What was so important about him? After they have had a chance to answer, read Matthew 3:1-6.

After reading that, can anyone tell me where John's ministry took place? Hold up the bag of dirt or sand and say "the wilderness". Does anyone remember a story about a wilderness journey we have heard about before? Let the children answer, and if no one knows, remind them of the Israelites' journey to the promised land. If you remember, the wilderness journey was a time for Israel that they were lost, not trusting God, unsure of who God was, etc.

Now, it has been 400 years since anyone has heard anything from God and now, we have someone in the wilderness calling for repentance and preparing people for the coming Deliverer. Can anyone tell me what repentance is? It is a change of mind, a change of attitude towards God, and a change of attitude towards one's sin. Many who heard John speak did repent and were baptized by him. By being baptized by John they were showing they agreed with what John said, and that God was going to do as He promised and send the Deliverer. They allowed their thinking to be changed about how they looked at their sin, themselves, and God.

Hold up the picture of the locust, and the honey. John was a little different from most people. He ate a diet of locusts and honey. Hold up the rough clothing and belt. He also wore rough clothes made of camel hair. John had a special mission, and that was preparing the way for the coming of the Deliverer, in the hearts and minds of the people.

Move onto the religious leader's table.

Read Matthew 3:7-10

Who are these religious leaders that John is talking about? Let's take a look.

The first group are the Pharisees. They were called the pious ones, as they taught strict following of the law of Moses, and the laws that came from the oral tradition handed down by those who had come before them. Write under the Pharisees' name, "Loved Law". These guys were so worried about breaking the law that they had extra rules to follow to help prevent them from breaking the law. They believed if they followed the law and everyone else did, as well, that sin would be gotten rid of, and God would bring forth His Kingdom.

Hold up the book. The Pharisees had so many laws that they were kept in books called the Mishnah and the Torah. Write "Mishnah and Torah" under Pharisees. The Pharisees had more influence in the synagogue. Write "synagogue" under Pharisees. Also, write "Resurrection". The Pharisees believed in a future resurrection of the dead.

The next group we are going to look at is called the Sadducees. They controlled the temple system. Write "Temple" under Sadducees. These were people of wealth, and often mediators between Rome and Israel. Write "Wealthy and powerful" under Sadducees. They did not believe in resurrection, or the idea of the final judgement. Write "No resurrection" and "No judgement" under Sadducees.

The last group of religious people we will look at will be the scribes. Scribes were proud of their knowledge of the Scriptures. They would spend hours copying Scripture and had memorized large portions of it. They believed that this made them more pleasing to God. Write "Knowledge", "Knew lots of Scripture", and "Thought knowledge would save them".

Each of these groups will come up again and again in Scripture. John was trying to get them to realize that the law could not save them, their views could not save them, and nor could knowing a lot of Scripture. He was trying to start preparing them to realize they needed the relationship with God more than anything else. God wants them to know Him, and that His plan is about to take place.

Head to the Jesus table.

The last person we are going to look at is Jesus Himself. The Deliverer who was promised to Eve was Jesus. He was proposed by God for three main duties. He would be God's final prophet, priest, and king.

Let's take a look at this. Hold up the scroll. Jesus was the final prophet. The role of a prophet in the Old Testament was to tell the truth that God gave them, either as messages or warnings. Jesus tells us that He is the way and the truth, and He himself fulfilled a lot of prophecies as well as gave us some more.

Hold up the picture of the Lamb. Jesus is the last priest. In the Old Testament, we see priests performing sacrifices on behalf of the people. They were Israel's representatives to God. Jesus as our high priest is our person who talks to God on our behalf. Jesus is also the sacrifice that brought us into a right relationship with God, so that we may enjoy our relationship with Him.

Hold up the crown. Finally, Jesus is our final king. Jesus is going to be the final king to rule over Israel, and the whole world. Jesus is from King David's line. God had promised that someone from King David's line would always rule, and Jesus will be the fulfillment of this rule. Jesus is called the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and will one day rule the whole world.

This is just a peek at who Jesus is as our Deliverer. Over the next few weeks, we will learn more and more about Jesus and who He is.

For the Parents: Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10 and talk about what these verses mean to you.

Lesson 30

Taken from the end of Knowing God Lesson 32

Purpose: To look at the baptism of Jesus and gain a deeper understanding of why Jesus was baptized.

Materials: None needed

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:29-34, Isaiah 11:2

Lesson:

Ask: Remember last week when we talked about John? What was he doing in the wilderness? He was preaching and baptizing. Today, we are going to look at a special baptism and what happened after it.

Read Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus was 30 years old when he came to John to be baptized. Ask: Why did Jesus need to be baptized if He was perfect and never sinned? Jesus was showing that He approved of John's message, and John as God's prophet. Jesus was setting the example for others to follow.

Ask: What happened when Jesus came up out of the water? The Holy Spirit came to be with Him to guide and give Him power for the work God had planned for Him. Jesus was fully God, but since Jesus was also fully man and lived as a man, He would need the Holy Spirit to do God's will here on Earth.

Read Isaiah 11:2

One final thing happened, and that was that God started from Heaven that, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased." God clearly states that this is the Deliverer.

Read John 1:29-34

Ask: Do you remember back in the Old Testament stories, about the importance of a lamb? Can you tell me about it?

In Genesis, we had one lamb sacrificed for one person. In Exodus, it was one lamb for one family. After the tabernacle we see one lamb sacrificed for an entire nation. John here calls Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world.

Ask: What do you think it means, that Jesus is the Lamb of God? Do you remember the story of Abraham and Isaac? Abraham was commanded to take Isaac and sacrifice him. As they were traveling, Isaac asked where the lamb was for the sacrifice. Do you remember what Abraham said? He said that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. This is what John is

talking about. Jesus was going to be the lamb that God provided for us, to take away our sins permanently. He would be the ultimate sacrifice, no more would be needed.

Ask: Have you ever seen someone baptized? Tell us about it. Allow the children to take turns sharing about it. Ask if any of them have been baptized.

Today, we baptize people as a proclamation of their faith and to follow Jesus's example.

For the teacher, if you have been baptized:

- Share your story of baptism.
- What led you to decide to be baptized?
- How did you feel afterward?

For the Parents: Read Matthew 3:1-17 and talk about these questions:

1. Describe John the Baptist.
2. Where did John Baptize Jesus?
3. What did John call Jesus?
4. Why didn't John want to baptize Jesus?
5. What happened after Jesus was baptized?

Lesson 31

Taken from Knowing God Lesson 33

Purpose: To look at the temptation of Jesus and see how He reacts to Satan.

Material: Poster board with “Temptation” written on it, and the phrases described in the activity on separate pieces of paper to put on the poster board.

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Lesson:

God has had a plan from before He ever created the world. Lucifer, after he sinned and became Satan, tried to disrupt that plan. Was God surprised by that? Satan was present when God promised to Adam and Eve that a Deliverer would come and crush the head of the serpent. Satan didn't like that, and time and time again we see Satan trying to prevent that from happening.

- The killing of Abel
- Pharaoh killing the male babies of the Israelites
- Herod trying to kill Jesus as a baby

Satan keeps failing, but he keeps trying to prevent God's plan from happening. Satan does not want God to succeed in bringing about our salvation. In this next story we will see another attempt at rebellion, and God using it to continue His plan.

Read Matthew 4:1

The Spirit is the one who leads Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted, not Satan. God led Jesus into the wilderness to experience temptation, so that He could understand His followers. God was using Satan to prepare Jesus. Jesus as a man was about to see what it was like to feel tempted to do the wrong thing. It would prepare Him to be our High Priest.

Read Matthew 4:2-4

Jesus was hungry after not eating for forty days and nights. Satan tries to get Jesus to make food for Himself out of rocks. Satan was telling Jesus to depend on Himself to feed Him, and not God. Essentially, he was telling Jesus to be His own god. Jesus uses Scripture to correct Satan and tells him that He will depend on God and not Himself. If you remember back to Adam and Eve's story, that Satan tempted them with the same thing. Adam failed this test, but Jesus passed it.

Read Matthew 4:5-7

Satan twisted Scripture to try to confuse Jesus, but Jesus was confident in God's love for Him. Jesus didn't need to put what He already knew to be true to the test. Satan had used this same

tactic with Eve before. He twisted the truth to tempt Eve into eating the fruit. He tried to do this with Jesus, but Jesus saw through it. Jesus would not test God. Satan tried to twist the truth, but Jesus used what He knew to be true of God and who God is to break through Satan's lies. This is why it is important for us as believers to get to know God, so that when we are tempted, we can turn to what we know is true of God like Jesus.

Read Matthew 4:8-11

Remember back to Genesis 1:28, where God gave Adam and Eve control over all the Earth. When Adam and Eve rebelled, Satan got control and influence of the Earth, and humanity. We are under Satan's authority when we are born into this world. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are placed under Jesus's authority. Anyone not under Jesus is controlled by their flesh and is of the same mind as Satan. Satan tries to get Jesus to worship him, just like he tried to take God's place. He fails again. Jesus knows that only God is who you worship. Jesus depends on God and not on Satan. Satan is once again unsuccessful at this, and leaves. We know that he will try again and again to get Jesus to fail. In the book of Hebrews, we see that Jesus was tempted in every way known to man, but Jesus never sinned. He truly was the perfect Lamb of God.

Satan is a created being who is also accountable to his Creator. He was unsuccessful when he was Lucifer and tried to take God's spot, and his every attempt to hinder God's plans and purposes have been unsuccessful.

Our world is permeated with the concept of a struggle between the forces of good and the forces of evil. It's often viewed as a "horizontal battle"- two equal sides fighting against each other. But this isn't how it is between God and Satan. God is supreme, and He is totally superior to Satan in every way, times infinity!

Even though Satan left Jesus at this time, one of the other gospel accounts says that he left for a more opportune time.

Activity:

Provide a large piece of poster board with "THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS" written across the top. Write each of Satan's temptations on one sheet of construction paper, and Jesus's response on another. The children will tape each of Satan's temptations to the poster and match them with Jesus's answer.

Satan - "Tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus - "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

Satan - "Worship me and all the kingdoms of the world will be yours."

Jesus - "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

Satan - "Throw yourself down from here and his angels will keep you safe."

Jesus - "It is written, 'Do not tempt the Lord your God.'"

For The Parents: Read Matthew 4:1-11 together and talk about these questions.

1. Who took Jesus out to the desert to be tempted?
2. How did Satan tempt Jesus?
3. How did Jesus not sin when tempted?
4. What is something you learned from Jesus in the story?

Lesson 32

Taken from Knowing God Lessons 34 and 36

Purpose: To look at the ministry and work of Jesus, seeing the power He had over creation, spirit world, healing, and much more.

Material:

Scripture: Luke 4:16-21, Mark 1:23-28, 40-42, Mark 2:1-12, Mark 4:35-41

Lesson:

Ask: Does anyone remember what God's plan was, from before the beginning of time? Allow time for children to talk you through it.

The plan of redemption is about to be carried out through Jesus! Up until this point, we have seen how God has brought this about, from creation, to the fall, to the promise, to the choosing of Israel (where Jesus would come from). We've seen the giving of the law and how they couldn't keep it. They needed a Savior. Now Jesus has come. No matter how much man has failed, or how much Satan has tried to cause the plan to fail, God has been faithful in bringing it about.

A couple lessons ago, we talked about John baptizing Jesus, and God saying this was His Son. God has done everything possible to point out to people that this is the Deliverer that was promised, from the fulfillment of prophecy at His birth, to His baptism, to things we will get into later in our lesson. Now, let us take a look at the ministry of Jesus, from its beginning to His healing and forgiveness of sins.

Read Luke 4:16-21

Jesus is saying two things, here: 1. God's plan is fulfilled. 2. The Kingdom of God is near.

Ask: Can anyone tell me what a kingdom is? Allow time for answers.

Jesus is saying that God will be ruling over His creation, and that the time of God's rule is near. Jesus was telling them the good news. He was telling them to repent of their sins and believe in this good news. That would be a lot to take in. What good news indeed, no more would man be in slavery under Satan, but they would be under God's rule! Jesus told the people to believe in that and have faith in that. What a wonderful promise, to have freedom!

Who was Jesus, though? Jesus was fully man, but He was also fully God, and we are going to see Him prove that. Jesus will show that He is God through his ability to heal, forgive sin, His authority over creation, His authority over the spirit world, His fulfillment of prophecy, and by His teaching. Let us take a look at this.

First, let's talk about Jesus showing that He had authority over the Spirit world.

Read Mark 1:23-28

The demons knew that Jesus had the authority over them. Jesus silenced them, and sent them out of the man, proving that He has power over the spirit world. Remember how Jesus said that the kingdom of God is here? Jesus proves it by physically showing His power.

Next, we'll talk about Jesus showing His power and authority by healing.

Read Mark 1:40-42

Leprosy was an incurable disease back then. No one wanted to be near someone with this disease, for fear of catching it. Lepers were required to live out the rest of their lives in isolation, away from people who weren't sick with the same disease. Jesus really shows His authority over this sickness, in that He was able to cure the man of this incurable disease, a disease that man could do nothing about, but Jesus could.

Now let's talk about Jesus's authority to forgive sins.

Read Mark 2:1-12

The men bring their friend to Jesus out of faith. Jesus responds to that faith, but also to another need. Jesus forgives the man's sin. The Pharisees point out that only God can do that. To prove to them that He can do both and has the authority to, Jesus asks them a question. Is it easier to say your sins are forgiven, or to say get up, take your mat and walk? He tells the man to get up and walk, proving to them that He can do both.

Next let's look at Jesus authority over Creation.

Read Mark 4:35-41

Jesus had authority over the storm. The wind and the waves instantly obeyed him and calmed down. He is demonstrating the same authority His Father had previously shown, both in the act of creation, and in such things as the Flood, and the parting of the Red Sea.

Now we'll take a look at Jesus's fulfillment of prophecy.

God gave a lot of promises and prophecies in the Old Testament that Jesus had to fulfill. In fact, God gave so many that it would be impossible for any man to fulfill them all by chance, but Jesus fulfilled them all. Jesus had 456 identifying characteristics before His birth that would help people identify Him when He came. Let's think through a couple we have already seen. The Deliverer would be born of a virgin. Was Jesus born of a virgin? The Deliverer was to be born in Bethlehem. Was Jesus born in Bethlehem? The Deliverer was to dwell among

men. Did Jesus dwell among men? You can look at all the promises and prophecies about the Deliverer and see for yourself.

Next week we are going to discuss Jesus's teaching ministry.

Activity:

Cut a large heart shape out of construction paper or card stock. Write down a list of things that hurt us.

Glue the heart onto another piece of paper or card stock.

Decorate the heart with band-aids, including two in the center of the heart that form the shape of a cross. Add verses and captions to remember that "Jesus heals our hearts." Add extra decorations such as stickers, glitter, or other elements. If desired, add a string to hang the artwork.

For the parents:

Read Mark 1:40-42 and Mark 2:1-12

1. Who takes care of you when you are hurt or sick?
2. What kind of things help you feel better?

How do you feel when someone forgives you when you do something wrong?

Lesson 33

Taken from Knowing God Lesson 35

Purpose To look at the teaching of Jesus, especially about the new birth.

Materials: Tubes of toothpaste, objects like spoons, sticks, etc. that the kids can use to try to put the toothpaste back in the tube. On the objects have words like law, actions, my own way, etc. Scissors and a paper plate.

Scripture: John 3:1-20, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson:

Before time began, God had a plan. Jesus the long-promised Deliverer had come to fulfill that plan. Not only is He the Deliverer, but He is God the Son in the flesh, the image of God Himself.

Read John 3:1-2

Do you remember a couple lessons ago, when we talked to a group of religious leaders called the Pharisees? Can anyone tell me what a Pharisee is? (Allow time for answers.) Today, we will talk about Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee. Nicodemus saw himself as a holy man because he kept the law, and taught others to do so. Nicodemus had a wrong view of God. He believed that all the things that he did would make him right with God. Remember what we learned back in Genesis 8? Every thought of man is only evil from birth. Nothing we do can make us right before God. The Pharisees would make up new rules to protect people from breaking other rules. The Pharisees were very good at not breaking rules and did not see themselves as sinners. Jesus was about to show Nicodemus differently.

Read John 3:3

Jesus points out that being a child of Abraham will not save Nicodemus. Why do you think that is? Allow time for answers. Abraham was born a sinner, just like us, and could only produce sin, just like us. Abraham could no more save himself, than he could save others. Which brings us to Jesus's second point in His statement, all people are born into sin, as all people are descendants of Adam. No amount of law keeping could make anyone acceptable to God. When Adam and Eve sinned back in the garden, they went from being perfect to having every thought and intent being evil and passing that on. No one can do anything to make themselves perfect before God. This must have shocked Nicodemus, who was taught that the more law you follow, the more God will accept you.

The only way we would be acceptable to God is to die and be recreated, according to Jesus. Nicodemus didn't get it.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 3:4-8

Ask: Can your mom give birth to you a second time? No, right? That is what Nicodemus was thinking Jesus was talking about. That would be crazy. Jesus was talking about being reborn spiritually, which is what we need. We need to die to our sin nature and be reborn as a new person in Christ. We have to be made new.

Ask: What do you think it means to be born of spirit and water?

It means to be born of Word and Truth. No one comes into the world having a right knowledge of who God is. The Holy Spirit washes away the wrong beliefs a believer has about themselves, God, and sin. He uses the Word to bring about the change in a believer's life. The Bible, without the Holy Spirit, will not be useful in our lives. This is what Jesus meant when He told Nicodemus we must be born of water and spirit. Truth is what is given to us by the word and the Holy Spirit.

Ask: Where is Nicodemus putting his identity? Is it in Abraham, or God?

Read John 3:9-20

Jesus asks Nicodemus to open his eyes. He knows Nicodemus knows the Scriptures. Jesus gives him an example to look at in the Old Testament before giving Nicodemus one of the biggest eye-opening moments of his life.

God loves the whole world, not just the Jews. He sent His Son not just so Israel can have an earthly kingdom, but so that anyone who believes in Him can receive eternal life. Jesus didn't come to save just Israel, and condemn all others, He came to save everyone. The promise of a Deliverer was not just made to one nation but was made to everyone. The promise was first made to Eve before there even was an Israel. God's plan before the foundation of the world was to save the world through His Son, through His plan of redemption. Anyone who believes will not die but have everlasting life. It's not what we do, say, where we were born, or how we act, but what we believe about Jesus that determines our salvation.

Activity:

Have a toothpaste tube and a paper plate. Squeeze out the toothpaste onto the paper plate. Around the paper plate, have various objects like spoons, sticks, etc. that the kids can use to put the toothpaste back in the tube. On the objects have words like law, actions, my own way, etc. Give the kids time to try to get the toothpaste back in through the hole. When they can't, tell them that there is only one way to do it, just like with the lesson we just heard. We will have to open the other end with a pair of scissors and scoop it back in and reseal it. You can do so later if you want to.

Parents: Read John Chapter 3 together and talk about it.

1. How can one enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. How can one be born again?

3. Why do I need to be born again?
4. Why did God send Jesus to die for us?

Lesson 34
Taken from Lesson 37

Purpose: To look at the calling of the disciples, and the discipleship of Peter.

Material: None needed

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-19, Matthew 4:23-25, Matthew 8:14-16, Matthew 14:22-32, Matthew 16:13-23, Matthew 17:1-6, Matthew 26: 31-35, 69-75, John 21:15-17, Acts 3:12, 4:8-13, 19, and 10:25-26,

Lesson:

Ask: What is discipleship? Allow time for children to answer, and then if they can't, tell them that it is. It is a way to learn to live our lives just like Jesus lived. Why is that important? Today, we are going to look at the discipleship of Peter by Jesus. Peter, like all people we looked at so far, is a sinful man. Every thought and intention of his heart is only evil from his birth, yet Jesus will choose this man, Peter, to lead His church.

Read Matthew 4:18-19

Ask: What was Peter doing when Jesus called him? Allow time for children to answer.

Ask: What did Jesus call Peter to do? Allow time for answers.

Jesus was going to make them fishers of men. These men He called were going to be His disciples, they would learn from Him, and eventually become the Apostles. They would lead the early church. They would be used in God's plan to bring redemption to the whole world, not just in their time, but in our time, also. The Holy Spirit would inspire these men to write the Scripture that we now study. God chose to work through people who no one would give a second glance to, to bring about His plan to redeem the world by telling people about His Son. First, they were about to get to learn from Jesus Himself.

Read Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus had the disciples follow, watch, listen, and observe what He was doing. As they watched, listened, and observed, Jesus revealed to them who He was through the things He did. Jesus taught them that they couldn't trust in themselves for things, and that He was the Son of God, and their only hope.

Read Matthew 8:14-16

Ask: Can anyone tell me what happened here? Allow time for answers. Why is it important? Allow time for answers. Jesus is showing Peter His power, His compassion, and His authority.

Read Matthew 14:22-32

A storm came, and the disciples were afraid, even the fishermen who were used to being out on the sea. They see a man walking to them on the waves. They discover it is Jesus. Peter asks to come to Him on the water, and Jesus tells him to come. Peter gets out of the boat, then allows fear to take control, and begins to sink. He cries out to Jesus to save him. Jesus does. Peter has a habit of doing things quickly without thinking them through. Jesus uses instances like this to really teach Peter. We will see this time and time again.

Read Matthew 16:13-23

Jesus asks His disciples a question. Peter answers the question, because it was revealed to him, and Jesus praises Peter for it. Immediately afterwards though, what happens? Jesus needs to correct Peter for falling back on his own understanding.

Read Matthew 17:1-6

Jesus chooses to take Peter along to show him something special, the transfiguration, in which Jesus shows His heavenly body. Peter again speaks before thinking it through and gets rebuked for it. God tells Peter "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." Essentially, He is telling Peter that if something needs to be done, Jesus will tell him. This isn't about him or what he thinks.

Read Matthew 26: 31-35,69-75

Ask: Explain to me what happened. Allow time for answers. Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him. Peter told Jesus he would never do that. Jesus told Peter that when the rooster crowed three times he would. Peter still does not believe Jesus. Peter is forgetting who Jesus is, and that Jesus knows things. Peter then goes through probably the worst night of his life, watching his master get arrested and beaten, to then deny Jesus. All these things Jesus told Peter were going to happen, but in his pride, Peter thought that he could prevent them.

Read John 21:15-17

Ask: What was the question that Jesus kept asking Peter? Allow time for answers.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus kept asking that? How many times did Peter deny Jesus?

Peter denies Jesus at one time, and at another is restored to fellowship with Him. Jesus shows Peter grace.

Let's look at a few passages of how Peter grew, after this moment.

Read Acts 3:12, 4:8-13, 19, and 10:25-26

Activity: Play the game of following the leader. Choose one child to be the leader. The rest of the children are to follow the leader and do as they do. You can change who is the leader and play multiple times.

For the Parents:

Read 2 Peter 3:9-18. This encourages us to grow in the knowledge of God, our savior Jesus Christ, and His grace. Growing in the knowledge of God will help us trust Him and walk in truth.

Talk about how knowing God has made a difference in your life.

Memorize 2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 35

Taken from Knowing God Lesson 38

Purpose: To look at the arrest of Jesus, and what happened just before it.

Material: Paper and something to draw with.

Scripture: Mark 14:32-36, Mark 14: 37-50, Mark 14:53-65, Mark 15:1-20, John 3:16

Lesson:

Today, we are going to see the plan God has had from before creation come to its glorious unfolding. We are going to look at the arrest and trial of Jesus, and why they were so important in God's plan. Remember, God had sent His Son the Deliverer into the world to save it. We needed a Deliverer because we as mankind are only evil from birth in our thoughts and intentions and can do nothing to redeem ourselves.

Jesus and His disciples had just finished the last supper in the upper room and had traveled to Gethsemane. It is here we will pick up the story.

Read Mark 14:32-36

Ask: What did Jesus ask God to do? Allow time for answers. Jesus was showing His human side when He prayed this, but He was also showing us what to do in these circumstances. He brought it before God. It is comforting to know that Jesus understands what it is like to experience the same emotions we do.

Read Mark 14: 37-50

Jesus spent the time before He was betrayed praying and had asked His disciples to do the same. Each time He came back to check on them they were asleep, until finally Jesus's time had come. When they had shared the last supper together, everyone had vowed not to leave Jesus, but what happened? They fled. Every last one of them ran, but God still used them later on to build His church. All of them except Judas, who betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Jesus was still teaching the disciples even in that moment, as He was being arrested in the dead of night and brought in secret to the high priest.

Read Mark 14:53-65

God uses the lies and sins of the witnesses against Jesus to bring about His plan. The false witnesses were making things up about Jesus.

Ask: Has anyone ever told a lie about you? Tell us about it.

Jesus never gave a response in His defense to what these witnesses were saying. The only time He did give an answer was when He was asked directly if He was the Son of God. Jesus

answered that He was, and they would “see Him seated at the right hand of Power coming with the clouds of Heaven.”

This is a direct threat to the power of the high priest and the Pharisees. They do not wish to lose any power, they do not believe that Jesus is who He says He is, and they are angry. Jesus was not going to free them from Roman control. They were focused on earthly things and not on things above, sadly. They proceed to mock and beat Jesus. God uses their anger to make them desire death for Jesus so that through His death, salvation for all will come, but they can't condemn Jesus to death. They need to bring Jesus before Rome.

Read: Mark 15:1-20

Jesus was brought before Pilate and accused. Pilate saw Jesus's innocence and tried to have Him released. He had Jesus flogged, which is being whipped 40 times. Sometimes, a person being flogged would die. If they do survive it, they are hurt very badly. Pilate tries again by offering to let either Jesus or Barabbas go. Barabbas was a murderer, and a very very bad man. They choose the evil man to be released, rather than Jesus. At this point the crowd's hatred is stirred up towards Jesus, and there is nothing more Pilate can do. He washes his hands of it and turns to Jesus and tells the Jewish leaders that this is on their heads, not his, and gives Jesus over to be crucified. Why would Jesus allow these men to do this to Him?

Read John 3:16 together.

Activity: Have the students draw on a piece of paper what this story means to them, specifically what John 3:16 means. Then have them share with the class what they drew.

For the parents:

Read John 17 together.

1. What did Jesus ask God in verses 20-26?
2. What does this show us about Jesus's desire for us?

Lesson 36

Taken from Knowing God Lessons 39 and 40

Purpose: To look at Jesus's death and resurrection and what they mean for us.

Material: Paper and scissors *See pages 110-121 for activity example illustrations.*

Scripture: Mark 15: 20-36, John 19:28-37

Lesson:

Have the pictures of how to fold the paper and where to cut inserted here. Lead the children in folding the paper and have them cut the paper as shown in the diagram above. Have them separate the pieces and set them aside. Tell them that we will be pulling the pieces out one by one and talking about them and building a picture as we go along.

Read Mark 15: 20-22

Have the children take the big cross and lay it in front of them.

Say: This cross represents Jesus's cross on which He was crucified. He died for our sins, the sins of the world, both past and present, so that He may bring redemption to all. He took our place on the cross, our punishment for our sin, even the sin we continue to struggle with today, as Christians. Jesus's death on the cross cleansed us from all sin, past, present, and future, it made us be able to stand before God guiltless. We have the right to be called children of God because of what was done here.

Read Mark 15:23-24

Have the children find the two small squares and have them place them near the foot of the cross.

Say: The soldiers cast lots for Jesus's clothing. Jesus wouldn't need it anymore once He was dead so the soldiers would throw dice to see who would get to take home peoples' clothes who were being executed. This fulfilled another prophecy, found in Psalm 22:18.

Read Mark 15:25-26

Have the children take one of the long pieces that may have a corner folded over and unfold the corner. Lay the piece over the top of the cross.

Say: A sign hung above Jesus that showed the criminal charge that the religious leaders had brought against Jesus, The King of the Jews. Pilate had it put there so all would see why Jesus was being crucified, and the charge that was brought against Him. The Jewish leaders did not like that it was there.

Read Mark 15:27

Have the children pull out the two L shaped pieces, and the half square pieces. Have the L's turned upside down and the squares put on top. (See photo) Have them put one cross on one side of the big cross and the other one on the other side.

Say: There were two criminals who were there with Jesus, who were being crucified as well. They were being punished for their crimes. This would fulfill the prophecy found in Isaiah 53:12 that the Deliverer would be crucified with criminals.

We have one more piece to get to, but we will get there. First, I want to pause and look at what we have before us and see what is happening. Let us add a little more context here.

Read Mark 15:29-36

The people are mocking Jesus and calling out to Him to save Himself. Jesus being crucified was the whole reason He came. What we see before us in this picture was God's plan from before the foundation of time. This was how He planned to redeem us. He planned to step down from His throne in the form of God the Son and give His life in our place, take our punishment, and redeem us, and all we have to do is believe. If Jesus had left the cross as these people had suggested, then He would not take His place as our High Priest. He became our substitute sacrifice on the cross, just like in the Old Testament with the story of the Passover.

Now, the story does not end with Jesus's death on the cross. Let us continue.

Read John 19:28-37

Have the children take the last piece, it should have a corner still folded over and place it next to the cross.

Say: The soldiers pierced Jesus's side with a spear shortly after Jesus gave up His spirit and said it was finished. Blood and water poured out from Jesus's side. This was one more prophecy fulfilled at Jesus's crucifixion. One thing that happened that isn't mentioned in this passage from Mark, but is covered in other Gospels, is the fact that the veil in the temple was torn in two when Jesus gave up His spirit.

They take Jesus' body to be buried, but what do you think happens?

That's right! In three days, Jesus rises from the grave, conquering death. Now take your crucifixion scene and place the cross at the top. Below place one L, next the sign with a dice above it, next the two tops of the crosses on top of each other, with a dice in the middle. Lastly place the last L shape upside down with the spear in the middle. What does it spell? Life! Christ died and rose again so that we might have life.

Ask: Were you born yet when Jesus died on the cross? Allow time for answers.

Ask: So how much sin had you committed? Jesus paid for all your sin before you even committed it.

This is the free gift that God has given us. It is not so we can go on and keep sinning, it's an invitation to get to grow in the knowledge of God. He offers that redemption and relationship to you; all you have to do is believe. What does that relationship look like? We will look at that next week.

Have the children take home the crucifixion scene and show their parents.

For the Parents:

1. Read Mark 15:20-36 and John 19:28-37 and talk about why Jesus had to die.
2. Why was Jesus the perfect sacrifice?

Lesson 37

Knowing God Lesson 42 and 43

Purpose: To take a look at who we are in Christ.

Material: Make a tree out of construction paper or if you have a small tree/bush you can use that. On one side of the tree put the words, who we are in the flesh. On the other side put the words who we are in Christ. Have note cards or little pieces of paper that we can write on to put on either side. If you do not have access to construction paper or a tree you can make a chart with the words on them.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:5, Romans 8:1, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:20, Romans 8:6, Romans 6:12-13, Galatians 6:8, Romans 7:18, Matthew 26:41, Romans 8:7

Lesson:

Remember back to Adam and Eve and the fall. God had created them perfect, sinless, and blameless. Ask: What did they do?

They disobeyed God and ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Ask: What happened when they did that?

They received death, separation from God, and were kicked out of the garden. All people born from them were born into this state of sin and separation from God. This sin nature we were born into greatly affects our condition, which is how we live out our daily lives as believers.

In Genesis 1, God began to carry out and fulfill His plan of adopting us as His children through Christ. God is the one, as we saw through this whole study, who carried out this plan. We did nothing to help, it was all God. As we learned in our last lesson, Jesus fulfilled the plan by paying the price, by shedding His blood. This redemption we received makes us so free from our sinfulness, that it makes God able to adopt us as His children, and we get the full benefits of that.

Ask: Who are we in Christ? Allow children to give answers. They may be right or wrong but do not correct them as they will be learning this lesson. Thank them for their suggestions.

Let's take a look at what the Bible says on this, and what happens when we receive Christ as our savior.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

Ask: What does this verse say about us? (We are new creations) Have a child write that on the paper and place it under the side that says who we are in Christ.

Read Ephesians 1:5

Ask: What does this verse say about us? (We are adopted into God's family) (sons and daughters) Have a child write that on the paper and place under the side that says who we are in Christ.

Read Romans 8:1

Ask: What does this verse say about us? (We are no longer condemned because of our sin. You may have to explain what condemnation is) Have a child write that on the paper and place under the side that says who we are in Christ.

Read Galatians 2:20

Ask: What does this verse say about us? (Christ is in us and with us) Have a child write that on the paper and place on the tree under the side that says who we are in Christ.

Philippians 3:20

Ask: What does this verse say about us? (We have citizenship in Heaven) Have a child write that on paper and place it on the tree under the side that says who we are in Christ.

Say: There are so many more verses that tell us who we are in Christ, and we can spend hours exploring this, but for now this is what we will look at.

Now let us look at what the Bible says about who we are when we are in the flesh. Can anyone tell me what this means? Allow time for answers. When we are in the flesh, we are trying to live our life apart from Christ and doing things on our own power instead of His. Let's take a look at what the Bible says about living in the flesh.

Read Romans 8:6

Ask: What does this verse say about the flesh? (We have death) Have a child write that on paper and place it under the side that says who we are in the flesh.

Read Romans 8:7

Ask: What does this verse say about the flesh? (Enemies of God) Have a child write that on paper and place it under the side that says who we are in the flesh.

Read Matthew 26:41

Ask: What does this verse say about the flesh? (the flesh is weak) Have a child write that on paper and place it under the side that says who we are in the flesh.

Read Romans 7:18

Ask: What does this verse say about the flesh? (Not able to do good) Have a child write that on paper and place it under the side that says who we are in the flesh.

Read Galatians 6:8

Ask: What does this verse say about the flesh? (corruption) Have a child write that on paper and place it under the side that says who we are in the flesh.

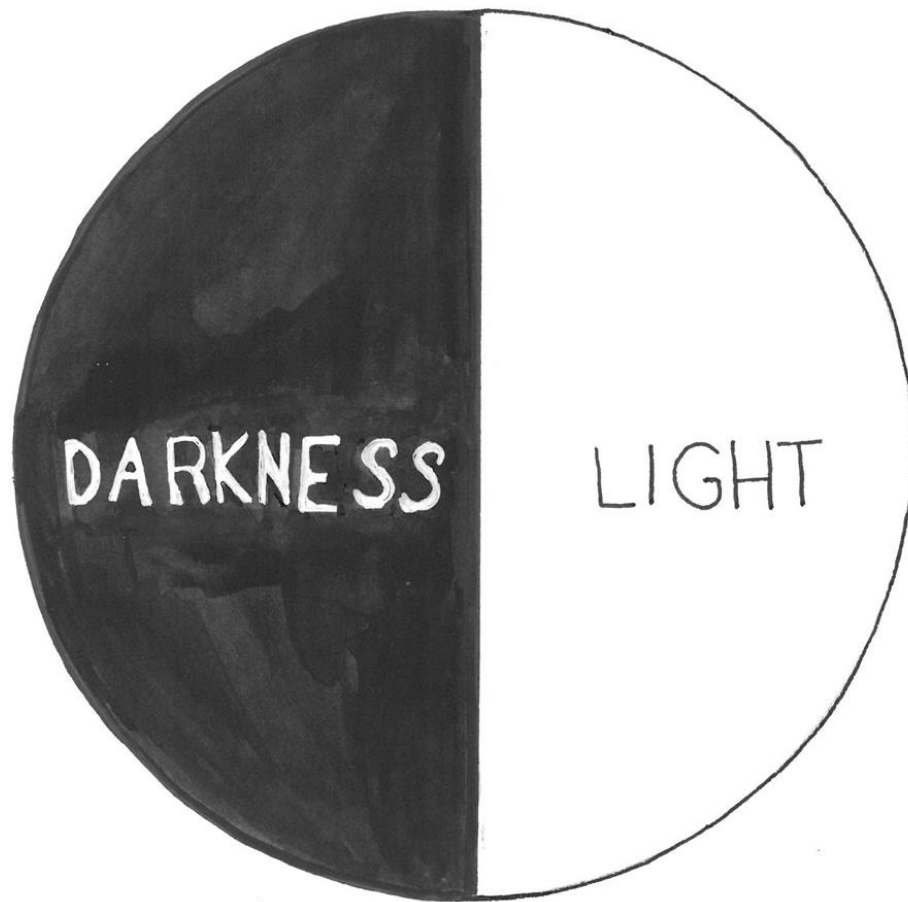
Read Romans 6:12-13

Ask: What does this verse say about the flesh? (Slaves to sin) Have a child write that on paper and place it under the side that says who we are in the flesh.

Say: The Bible has a lot more to say about who we are in the flesh and again we could spend hours studying this, but this will give us the picture of who we are in the flesh. Let's look at the tree and see what we have.

Ask: What do you see on the tree? Allow time for answers. Take time to talk about what is on either side of the tree and allow them to ask any questions they may have. Let them know that we as Christians are still in our earthly bodies and will struggle with the flesh. We need the Holy Spirit's help to help us live as we should, but until Jesus comes back, we will still have struggle and hardship. During our time of trials, we do have help in Jesus.

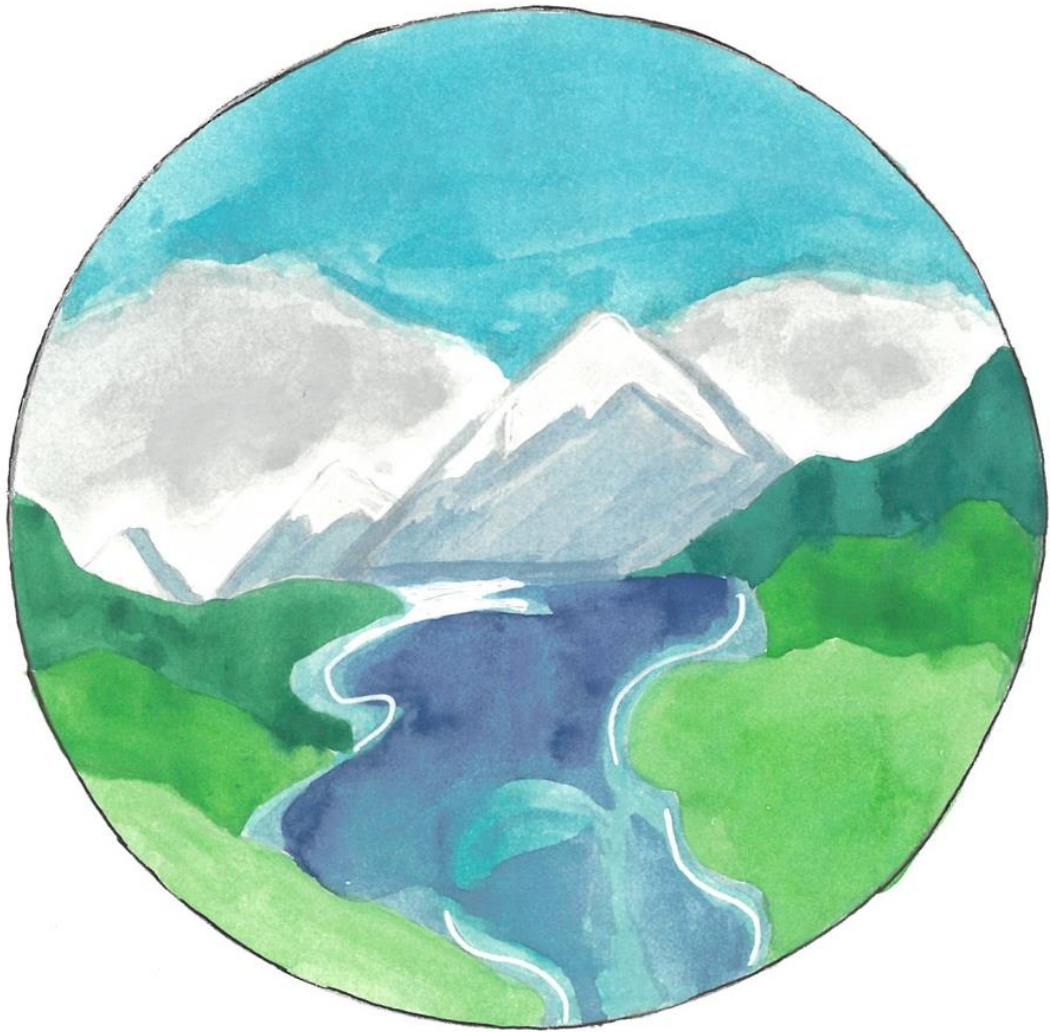
For the parents: Read Ephesians 1:1-23 and make a list of all the things we are now because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Talk about how this is our new identity. Share with your child situations in your life where you have needed to remember these.



DAY 1



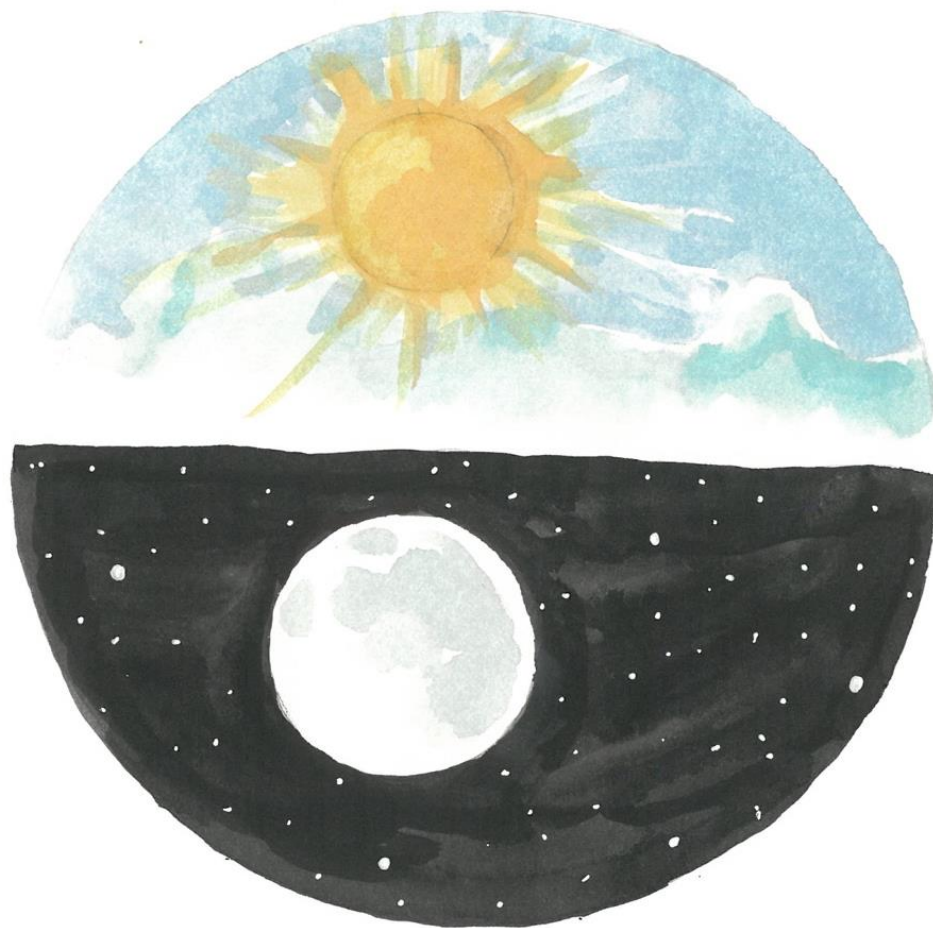
DAY 2



DAY 3



DAY 3



DAY 4



DAY 5



DAY 6

