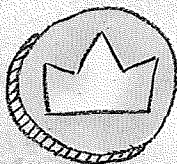


THE GOSPEL

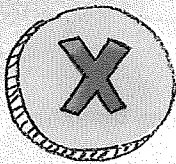
GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



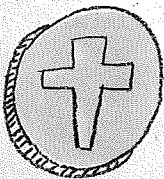
GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



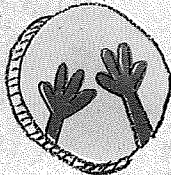
GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Bible Study at a Glance



Leader Bible Study

Familiarize yourself with the content and context of the Bible story and how it relates to God's plan of redemption.

Preparation

Pray for your kids and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

Pray for your kids

Send a parent e-mail

Print/download printables

Assemble supplies

Prepare videos

Opening Activities

Activity Page

Small Group Opening

Engage kids and introduce the day's Bible story.

Say what?
Use the suggested "Say" dialogue to easily move between segments.

Large Group Leader

Communicate the day's Bible story and discover God's big story.

Discussion Starter

Bible Story

Key Passage

Sing

Big Picture Question

Giant Timeline



Suggested times

The times provided allow you to complete the session plan in an hour and fifteen minutes. Lengthen or shorten the session as needed.

Make it fit

Customize the session plan to fit the needs of your church or classroom.



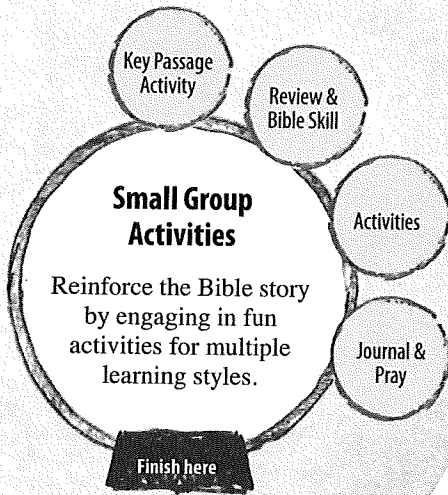
1 room

- 1) Use the Small Group Opening to welcome kids to Bible study. Kids may work the activity page and/or complete an activity together.
- 2) Transition to an area within your classroom that can be designated as the Large Group Bible story area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the small group area by using a countdown video, or gather around a table as you reinforce the Bible story's main point and Christ connection.



1 or more rooms

- 1) Use the Small Group Opening to welcome kids to Bible study. Kids may work the activity page and/or complete an activity together.
- 2) Use the countdown video or other transition signal as you move your small group to join the other small groups in the large group area. Watch the Bible story video or tell the Bible story. Incorporate any large group elements that fit your space and your time constraints.
- 3) Regroup to the small group rooms where you will reinforce what the kids learned from the Large Group Leader, review the key passage, and practice Bible skills.



Check out our tips and resources for an additional hour in the Worship Guide!

Unit 4: God the Redeemer

Unit Description:

God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to rescue His people from bondage in Egypt. God demonstrated His glory through a series of miracles to secure Israel's freedom. The Exodus account was great, but God's greatest rescue would come through His Son, Jesus, who would save people from their sin.

Key Passage:

Hebrews 3:5-6

Big Picture Question:

What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.



Unit 4: God the Redeemer

Session 1:

Bible Story:

Moses Was Born and Called

Bible Passage:

*Exodus 1:8–2:10, 23–25;
3:1–4:20*

Main Point:

God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

The Plagues, the Passover, and the Crossing of the Red Sea

Bible Passage:

Exodus 5–14

Main Point:

God proved to the Egyptians that He is the one true God.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

The Wilderness Test

Bible Passage:

Exodus 15:22–17:7

Main Point:

God provided for the physical needs of His people.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

The Golden Calf

Bible Passage:

Exodus 32:1–35; 34:1–9

Main Point:

God punished His people for worshipping a golden calf.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

The Ten Commandments:
Love God

Bible Passage:

Exodus 19:1–20:11; 31:18

Main Point:

God gave us rules to show that He is holy and we are sinners.

Moses Was Born and Called

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 1:8–2:10,23-25; 3:1–4:20

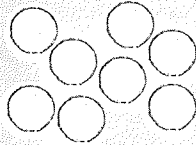
MAIN POINT: God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

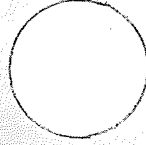
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)

PAGE 10



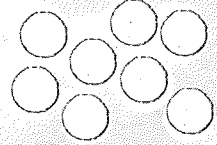
LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)

PAGE 12



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)

PAGE 18



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Moses was born into a culture that hated his people. The Israelites—descendants of Israel (Jacob)—had set up their home in Egypt when a famine forced them to seek out food. They became so numerous that Pharaoh felt threatened and forced them into slavery. But their families still grew, and Pharaoh instituted an unimaginable method of population control: kill all of the baby boys.

Moses' story is a clear picture of God's sovereignty. Not only was Moses' life spared by the Egyptian princess, Moses' mother was able to care for him. Moses grew up in Pharaoh's house and then spent years shepherding in Midian before God called him to his task.

Imagine the encounter between God and Moses at the burning bush. God drew a curious Moses to Himself and then spoke: “Moses, Moses!”

God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob. He testified to His own grace: “I have observed the misery of My people ... and I know about their sufferings. ... I am sending you ... so that you may lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt” (Ex. 3:7-10).

God revealed His name: “I AM WHO I AM.” The most basic and important fact about God is that He exists; He always has and always will exist. God does not change. God revealed to Moses who He is so that the people would trust in Him.

Help the kids you teach understand that God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity. Emphasize how the calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God’s people from sin.



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Moses Was Born and Called

Exodus 1:8–2:10,23-25; 3:1–4:20

Years after Joseph brought his family to Egypt, Joseph died. His family stayed in Egypt. The people in the family were known as Israelites because they came from the family of Israel (Jacob).

A new pharaoh came to power, and he was afraid of the Israelites (also called Hebrews). The family had grown so big; what if they joined Egypt's enemies and fought against the king? Pharaoh tried to make the Israelites weak. He made them slaves and gave them very hard work to do, but their families kept growing!

“Kill all the baby boys!” Pharaoh said. But the Hebrew midwives, who helped with the births, did not do what Pharaoh said.

“Throw every Hebrew baby boy into the Nile River!” Pharaoh commanded.

Around this time, a Hebrew woman gave birth to a son. She hid him as long as she could, and then she put him in a basket and set it along the banks of the Nile River. The baby's older sister, Miriam, stayed nearby and watched the basket.

Soon **Pharaoh's daughter** went to the river to take a bath. She **found the basket and** saw the baby crying. Pharaoh's daughter **felt sorry for the baby and wanted him to be her son.** Miriam offered to find a woman to nurse the baby until he was older. The princess agreed, so Miriam brought her mother to care for him. **The princess named the baby Moses.**

When Moses grew up, he had to leave Egypt. Moses worked as a shepherd for many years. **The Israelite people**

in Egypt were still miserable, and they cried out to God. God heard them, and He planned to send Moses to help them.

One day, Moses saw a burning bush. The bush was not burning up. Suddenly, God called from the bush, “Moses, Moses!”

Moses replied, “Here I am.”

God told Moses to take off his sandals. Then God said, “I have seen how My people are suffering. I want you to lead them out of Egypt to a good land I have for them.”

Moses wondered if the Israelites even remembered God. “What if they ask for Your name? What should I tell them?”

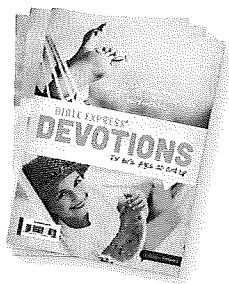
“I AM WHO I AM,” God said. “Tell them: I AM has sent me to you.”

“What if they don’t believe me?” Moses asked.

So God gave Moses three miraculous signs to prove that God had appeared to him. Moses’ staff turned into a snake. His hand became diseased and then healed. “If they still do not believe,” God said, “pour on the ground water from the Nile River. It will turn into blood.”

Moses made excuses and said, “Please send someone else.” Now God was angry, but He agreed to send Moses’ brother, Aaron, with him.

Christ Connection: God saved Moses to rescue His people. The calling of Moses points to a greater calling and rescue—the call of Jesus to come to earth to save God’s people from sin. Moses and Jesus both obeyed God’s commands in order to carry out His plan of salvation. Moses delivered God’s people from physical captivity; Jesus delivered God’s people from captivity to sin.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that God’s plan to send Jesus was a greater rescue.

At just the right time, God sent Jesus to earth to deliver His people from sin. (Gal. 4:4-5) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Moses Was Born and Called

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 1:8–2:10,23-25; 3:1–4:20

MAIN POINT: God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God’s plan? God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask for volunteers to share about a time when they needed to be courageous. What was the situation and what did they do?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Hidden on the Nile” activity page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Hidden on the Nile” activity page. Tell kids to use the code to determine the color of each space. The final picture of Baby Moses in the basket will be revealed.

SAY • Today’s Bible story is about a baby named Moses, whom God rescued for a special purpose.

Session starter (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Telephone game

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Whisper a statement into the first kid’s ear. Sample statements:

- Baby Moses was born and put into a basket by the river.
- Baby Moses became a man and heard God through a burning bush.

- God had a perfect plan—a perfect plan for His people in trouble.
- God spoke to His people through a man named Moses. God told Moses what to speak.

The first child then whispers what she heard into the second person's ear. Continue around the circle. Then ask the last child to share what he heard.

Tell the kids the original phrase. Compare what the last child heard to the original statement.

SAY • In today's Bible story, God spoke to Moses in an unexpected way—from a burning bush! God told Moses that He would be Moses' mouth and teach him what to speak to God's people. [See Ex. 4:12.] Moses told God's people exactly what God said.

OPTION 2: Animal identity

Before the session, write the name of animals on separate index cards. Create one per kid. (Suggestions: *dolphin, lion, zebra, eagle*, and so forth.)

- index cards
- masking tape
- marker

Use masking tape to affix an animal identity index card to the back of each child. Invite kids to ask each other yes-no questions to help reveal their animal identity, such as "Does my animal live in the jungle?"

SAY • In today's Bible story God identified himself as "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14). Isn't that a strange way to tell someone who you are? Let's find out why God said that!

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Moses Was Born and Called

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 1:8–2:10,23-25; 3:1–4:20

MAIN POINT: God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.

KEY PASSAGE: Hebrews 3:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.

- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas: Simulate a race-theme game. Use props such as flags, a world map or globe, a map of Egypt, various transportation models, and so forth. Consider projecting the theme background slide.

Countdown

- countdown video
- "The Big Story" video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins. Then begin the session by showing the video "The Big Story."

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- "Great Race Clue Card" printable
- Bible

[Large Group Leader enters wearing athletic attire with a solid color T-shirt, holding a Great Race clue card and Bible.]

LEADER • Hi, everyone, I am so glad you're all here. I'm [your name], and I'm so excited to tell you that I am the next contestant on [dramatic pause] The Great Race! Oh wow! It's going to be so much fun but super challenging!

Will you help me along the way? You will? Great! Let's do a little warm-up together, OK? *[Guide kids in a short athletic warm-up.]* All right, here we go!

This is my first clue. *[Dramatically open the Great*

Race clue card and read it aloud.]

*Travel to the land of the Pharaohs of old and
make your way to the banks of the Nile River.*

Pharaohs of old? Nile River? Oh, I should have paid more attention in my geography class! Does anyone know where in the world I should go?

(Egypt) Hey! I remember something about Egypt; do you? It's here, in the Bible. [*Open the Bible.*]

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER • Let's see where we are on our giant timeline. Oh look, here is Joseph. Joseph had a beautiful robe, and his brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt. But God used Joseph's suffering for good! Joseph's family moved to Egypt and became a very large family. The people in his family were known as Israelites because they came from the family of Joseph's father, Israel (formerly known as Jacob).

• Giant Timeline or Big
Story Circle

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Our big picture question for today's Bible story is, *What is God's plan?* We will learn that God is *sovereign*, which means that He is in control. God knows the plans He has for His people. (Jer. 29:11) Let's find out God's plan for the Israelites. Listen carefully to the Bible story.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Exodus 1–4. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video “Moses Was Born and Called.”

• Bibles
• “Moses Was Born and Called” video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

LEADER • Oh, no! The new pharaoh did not remember the great things that Joseph had done for Egypt. He was afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them, so he made them slaves and made them work very hard. But the Israelites' families kept growing.

Pharaoh ordered all the Israelites' baby boys to be killed. Pharaoh was afraid that these babies would become men who would rise up against him. That was Pharaoh's plan. But, do you remember who else has a plan? (*God*) That's right. God has a plan! ***What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.***

I'm going to ask you some questions about the Bible story. Raise your hand if you know the answer.

Ask the following review questions:

1. What did the Hebrew woman put her son in along the banks of the Nile River? (*a basket, Ex. 2:3*)
2. Who watched to see what would happen to the baby? (*Miriam, the baby's older sister; Ex. 2:4*)
3. Who saw the basket and felt sorry for the baby? (*Pharaoh's daughter, Ex. 3:5-6*)
4. Who nursed and cared for Moses? (*Moses' mother, Ex. 2:8-9*)
5. Who heard the Israelites' cries? (*God, Ex. 2:23-25*)
6. From what did God call out to Moses? (*a burning bush, Ex. 3:4*)
7. What was God's plan for Moses? (*to lead God's people out of Egypt, Ex. 3:10*)
8. Who did God say He is? (*I AM WHO I AM, Ex. 3:14*)
9. ***What is God's plan? God's plan is to rescue His people from captivity.***

LEADER • God planned to use Moses in a great rescue!
That reminds me of an even greater rescue. God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus, to earth to save His people from sin.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Hebrews 3:5-6.

LEADER • Moses was faithful to deliver God's people from captivity. What does it mean to be *faithful*? (*to be full of faith or devotion to something or someone*) Moses was faithful, but Jesus Christ is more faithful.

- Key Passage Poster
- "Confidence of Our Hope" song

Demonstrate hand motions for key words to help them memorize the verse. Use the motions while singing "Confidence of Our Hope."

Tip: Check out sign language tutorials online if you need help creating hand motions.

- **Moses**—Slip thumb on right hand between little finger and ring finger. Fold over fingers toward palm to form the sign for *M*.
- **faithful**—Touch your forehead with your right index finger. Using both hands, touch your index finger and thumb to make an *O* and strike hands together.
- **servant**—Hold hands in front of body with palms up and elbows extended.
- **household**—Join fingertips together above head to

show the roof and walls of a house.

- **Christ**—Make a C with your right hand, touch your left shoulder, and bring it down to your right hip.

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

• “Unit 4, Session 1”
discussion starter
video

LEADER • Who actually rescued Israel: Moses or God?
What was Moses’ role? Watch this.

Show the “Unit 4, Session 1” discussion starter video.

LEADER • Samuel did not acknowledge Emiliano as the creator of the stool. He was only interested in the tools Emiliano used to accomplish his plan. Who or what was more important: Emiliano or the tools?

Guide kids to discuss some ways God can use us. When God uses us for something great, who should get the credit?

Sing (4 minutes)

• “Freedom” song

LEADER • We can give God glory for His work by praising Him. Let’s sing to Him now.
Sing together “Freedom.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Who would like to answer our big picture question? *What is God’s plan? God’s plan is to rescue His people from captivity.* Let’s pray.

Lord God, You are the Rescuer! You used Moses to rescue the Israelites from physical captivity. You used Jesus to rescue us, Your people, from captivity to sin! Hallelujah! Praise God! We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.



• large sheet or blanket

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Peek-a-who?

Form two groups of kids. Two leaders should hold a sheet like a curtain between the two groups. Tell each group to quietly choose a member to stand close to the sheet.

Leaders will drop the sheet. The first kid to call out the name of the other kid wins. The other kid is out. Then return the sheet and choose two new players. Play continues until a group has one remaining kid.

SAY • Names help us identify and know one another. Your name may have a special meaning or history. Does anyone know what your name means?

Who remembers the name that God used to identify Himself in today's Bible story? (*I AM WHO I AM, Ex. 3:14*) That's right! God always has and always will exist. He never changes.

God revealed to Moses who He is so that Moses would trust in Him. When we better understand who God is, we too can put our trust in God.

OPTION 2: Rescue!

- cones or markers
- small classroom object

Use cones to outline a 5-foot circle. Place an object in the middle of the circle, and choose two kids to be its guards. Explain that the guards may not step inside or travel away from the circle.

Challenge kids to rescue the object without being tagged by the guards. Tagged kids are out. Play continues until the object has been rescued or the guards tag everyone.

SAY • Today we learned that **God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.**

Moses' rescue mission points to a greater rescue mission—Jesus coming to earth to save God's

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

people from sin. Moses and Jesus both obeyed God's commands in order to carry out His plan of salvation. Moses delivered God's people from physical captivity; Jesus delivered God's people from captivity to sin.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute pencils and journal pages.

SAY • Moses may have seemed like the hero of today's Bible story, but Moses wasn't the biggest hero. He was an ordinary man who made some big mistakes.

God is the true and better Hero. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from captivity to sin.

God saves people from all over the world, and He uses His people to carry out His plan of salvation.

Do you remember another person from today's Bible story whom God used to rescue Moses? (*Miriam*)

She too was part of God's plan to rescue His people.

Tell kids that as God's household, we too are part of God's plan of salvation. (See Heb. 3:5-6.)

Invite kids to write on their journal pages about a time they did something great such as earning a good grade or scoring a goal in a big game. Prompt them to write a one- or two-sentence prayer, giving God glory for their accomplishments. Point out that, like God used Moses to rescue His people, God can use us as part of His plan.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Truth Translation" on the activity page. The kids will fill in the letter for each symbol to decipher the Bible story main point from the hieroglyphics. (Main point: **God rescued Moses to deliver His people from captivity.**)

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Truth Translation" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.