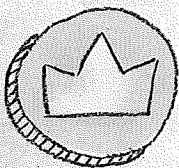


THE GOSPEL

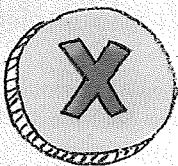
GOD'S PLAN for PRESCHOOLERS

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help little minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



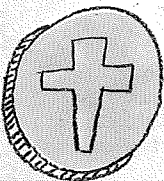
GOD IS KING.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



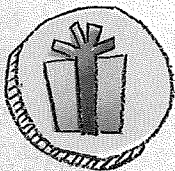
WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



GOD SENT JESUS.

Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.



JESUS LOVES.

Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.

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 preschoolers and contact families during the week. Gather and prepare session materials.

- Pray for your preschoolers
- Send a parent e-mail
- Print/download printables
- Assemble supplies
- Prepare videos

Small Group Opening

Engage preschoolers and introduce the day's Bible story.


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

- Activity Page
- Opening Activities

Large Group Leader

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

- Bible Story
- Giant Timeline
- Big Picture Question
- Key Passage
- Sing

 **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 preschoolers to Bible study. Preschoolers 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. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



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 preschoolers learned from the Large Group Leader. Set up activities in one of these ways: as a group, all at the same time; in small groups that rotate through each activity; set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose.



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

Unit 1: God the Creator

Unit Description:

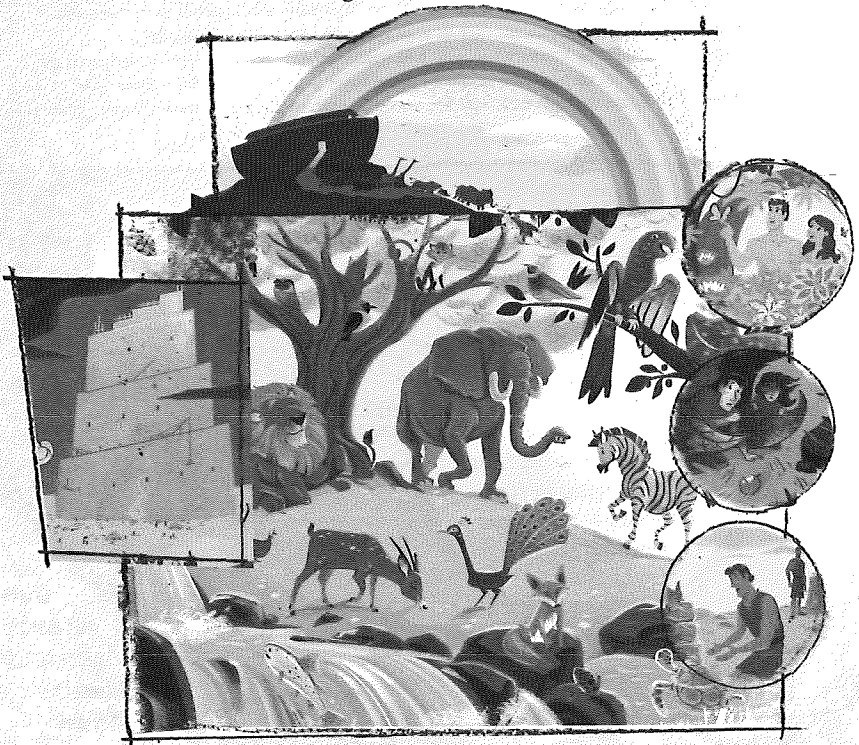
In the beginning, God created everything for His glory. He made people in His image. When sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, God revealed His plan to bring people back to Himself through a descendant—His own Son.

Unit Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions:

Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.
What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.



Unit 1: God the Creator

Session 1:

Bible Story:

God Created the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:1-25

Main Point:

God created everything.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

God Created People

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:26-2:25

Main Point:

God created people in His own image.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 3:1-24

Main Point:

Adam and Eve sinned.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Cain and Abel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

Main Point:

God punished Cain for his sin.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

Noah and the Ark

Bible Passage:

Genesis 6:5-9:17

Main Point:

God is holy.

Session 6:

Bible Story:

The Tower of Babel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 11:1-9

Main Point:

God created people to give Him glory.

God Created People

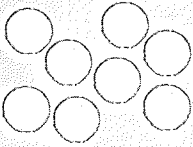
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything.

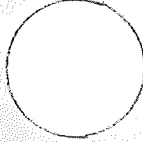
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

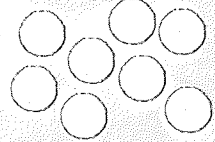
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 14



Leader BIBLE STUDY

In the beginning, God created everything. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, or “out of nothing.” All of creation began with a word. When God spoke, it happened. Light, land, sky, stars, plants, and animals. God made them all, and they were good. Creation was perfect, just as God intended.

Every story in the Bible is a small piece of a much bigger story—God’s redemptive story. Sin would enter the world and affect everything, but God already knew. He already had a plan to show His grace to people through His Son (2 Tim. 1:9), to rescue and restore. In fact, the Bible says that God’s plan existed before He created the world. (Eph. 1:4-6)

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve animal cookies and pretzel sticks for snack.

Encourage preschoolers to build an outline of an ark with the pretzel sticks and place their animal cookies in the “ark.” Remind preschoolers that God instructed Noah to build an ark so he, his family, and many creatures could be rescued from the flood.

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of rainbow. Remind boys and girls that **God is holy** and punishes sin, but that He sent Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. When we trust in Jesus, we can be rescued from sin.

SAY • God, You are holy and Your rules are holy. You must punish sin. Thank You for loving sinners like us so much that You sent Your Son, Jesus, to be punished for our sin. Help us to see our sin and help us to turn away from it and obey You. We love You. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

The Tower of Babel

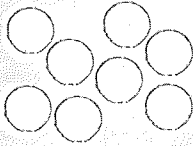
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.

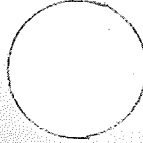
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

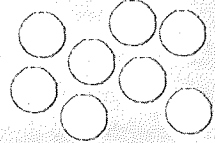
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 70



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(10–15 MINUTES)
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(20–25 MINUTES)
PAGE 74



Leader BIBLE STUDY

Following the flood, God wanted to have a fresh start. God commanded Noah in Genesis 9:1 to “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” This command echoes the one given to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28. God intended the paradise of the garden to spread into the whole world, but sinful people had other desires.

Genesis 10 accounts for the nations that spread out in the land after the flood (Genesis 10:32). The people moved east and settled in a valley. This story continues the cycle of disobedience to God and a choice to sin that will be a constant reminder of our need for a Savior.

In Genesis 11:2, Scripture indicates that instead of filling the earth as God commanded, these people devised a plan to build a city and a large tower into the heavens.

Read Genesis 11:4. The people's motive was clear: "Let us make a name for ourselves." The people didn't want to be scattered. They didn't believe God would give them what was good if they obeyed Him. They sought to obtain for themselves what they believed was good.

The people tried to build a monument with its top in the heavens, but they succeeded only in separating themselves from God and from each other. God confused their language and scattered them over the earth. They were unable to finish building the city, so the city was called Babel—which sounds like the Hebrew word for "confused"—because there the Lord confused the people's language.

This week you have the opportunity to tell the preschoolers you teach about God's better plan: His plan not for people to reach up to Him, but His plan to reach down to people by sending His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we couldn't live and die the death we don't want to die. That is the gospel. Pray that the preschoolers you teach would have open hearts to receive it.



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

The Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

After the great flood, God told Noah's family to spread out and fill the whole earth. As Noah's sons and daughters got married, they started their own families. Soon, **more and more people were on the earth. These people moved to a valley that looked good to them. They did not fill the whole earth; the people did not obey God.**

They said to one another, "We are great. We do not want to spread out over the earth. Let's build a city together, and let's make a tower so tall that the top of the tower reaches to the sky. Then everyone will know how great we are."

God created people to give Him glory, but the people did not want to give God glory. They wanted to give themselves glory. Instead of saying, "Look how great God is," they said, "Look how great we are!"

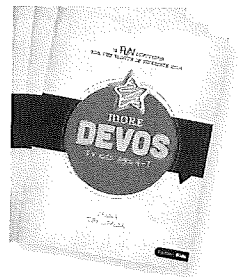
But no one is greater than God. While the people made bricks and started building, God came down to look at the tower. He was not happy about what they were doing. God said, "If they are doing this, they will keep thinking of more bad things to do. We need to stop them."

So God decided to mix up their words. When people tried to make plans, they could not understand what other people were saying. If one workman said, "Hand me another brick," nobody else knew what he wanted.

The people had to stop building the city. Families had to move away from each other to live with people they could understand. God made it so the people did just what He had told them to do after the flood.

They spread out all over the earth. The city with the unfinished tower was called Babel (BAY buhl).

Christ Connection: People chose to make themselves famous instead of God. They ignored God and did not do what He wanted them to do. God mixed up their language and spread out the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and every language will worship Him together. (Revelation 7:9-10)



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that the people whom God created originally spoke one language. One day, all of God's people will worship Jesus in every language. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.

Welcome time

- “God Makes Everything” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Tower Maze” activity page, 1 per kid
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers to complete the maze.

SAY • In today’s Bible story we will hear how some people wanted to make a tower so tall that the top of the tower would reach the sky. This was a bad idea. Let’s find out why.

Color circle



- 2 sets of colored paper in 4 colors
- masking tape

Tape four pieces of different color paper to the floor leaving plenty of space between the papers. Hold the other four papers in your hand. Explain that when you hold up a paper, preschoolers must circle together around that color paper on the floor. When you are not holding up a paper, preschoolers should spread out around the room. Play as time allows.

SAY • After the great flood, God told Noah’s family to

spread out and fill the whole earth. Instead of spreading out as God said, they moved together to a valley that looked good to them. They disobeyed God. We will find out what else they did in today's Bible story.

Make bricks

Provide a lump of clay for each child. Display short sticks, grass, straw, or hay. Demonstrate how to fold the nature items into the clay. Guide preschoolers to press their clay into ice cube trays to form bricks. Assist preschoolers in using craft sticks to remove their bricks from the tray. Preschoolers may use their bricks and work together to build a small tower.

SAY • In today's Bible story, we will hear about some people who decided to build a city together. They tried to build a tower to reach up into the sky. They wanted everyone to think they were great. They forgot that God created the world to show how great He is!

- clay
- grass, straw, hay
- ice cube trays
- craft sticks
- Allergy Alert download

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Encourage the children to pretend to use a tool such as a hammer or saw as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.

Introduce the Bible story

Direct preschoolers to spread out around the room where no one is able to touch another. Then gather everyone back to the teaching area.

SAY • We take up a lot of space when we spread out. After the flood, God told Noah and his family to spread out and fill up the earth. That is not what happened. Let's find out what did happen in today's Bible story.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Genesis 11.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book in the entire world! The Bible has God's words in it. Everything in the Bible is true. Today's Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Show the Bible story video "The Tower of Babel," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided.

Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • God created the world to show how awesome He is. **God created people to give Him glory.** The people didn't want to do that. Instead of showing everyone

- Bible
- "The Tower of Babel" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

how great God is, they wanted to show everyone how great they were, which is not very great.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What did God tell people to do after the flood? (*spread out and fill up the earth*)
2. What did the people decide to build so everyone would think they were great? (*a tall tower*)
3. Why did God mix up the people's words (*to stop them from building the city and doing more bad things*)
4. In what city was the unfinished tower? (*Babel*)

Big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question for today is, *Why did God create the world? God created the world for His glory.* Glory means showing the world how awesome God is. The people wanted the world to think they were awesome. **God created people to give Him glory.** Life works best when we say, "Look at Jesus!" instead of "Look at me!"

Key passage

Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 8:6. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing the key passage song together.

SAY • People chose to make themselves famous instead of the one God. God mixed up their words and spread out the people all over the earth. One day, the one Lord, Jesus, will bring His people back together. People from every group and who use different words will worship Him together.

Transition to small groups

• Key Passage Poster
• "There Is Only One"
song

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: The Tower of Babel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 11:1-9

MAIN POINT: God created people to give Him glory.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law.



• interlocking blocks

Sort and stack blocks

Provide an assortment of interlocking blocks. Encourage preschoolers to stack the blocks by color. Guide them to count the blocks and determine how many blocks there are of each color. Which color of blocks do they have the most of? The least? Assist preschoolers in arranging the blocks in descending order.

SAY • Building a city with a tower to reach up to the sky would take a lot of bricks, but God did not want the people to build the tower. What they were doing was a wrong thing. **God created people to give Him glory.** The people wanted to give themselves glory. God mixed up their words and spread them out all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring all His people back together to worship Him.

Play a Tower Relay

Form two teams. Line up each team single file behind a masking tape start line. Place a set of blocks for each team at the start line. Designate an area for building on the opposite side of the room. One at a time, each team member will take a block to the building area to build a tower. Once a child has placed her block on her team's tower, she must

return to the back of the line. The team who uses all their blocks first wins. Play again, declaring the team with the highest tower the winner.

SAY • Building tall towers is fun! I told you to build tall towers, but that is not what God told the people in our Bible story to do. God wanted them to spread out over the whole earth. **God created people to give Him glory.** What they were doing did not give God glory. God spread them out all over the earth like He told them to do in the first place.

Hammer painting

Provide a toy hammer and a sheet of paper for each child. Place a folded paper towel onto a foam plate. Pour paint onto the paper towel. Demonstrate how to dip the tip of the toy hammer in the paint and gently hammer the paper to create a colorful pattern. Encourage creativity. Place hammer paintings in a safe place to dry.

SAY • We use hammers to build. The people in our story today were building a city. God had told them to spread out and fill the earth. They disobeyed. **God created people to give Him glory.** They were not doing what God created them to do. What they were doing was sin. God punished them by mixing up their words, but one day God's people from every group and who use different words will come together and worship Jesus.

- paper
- toy hammers
- foam plates
- paper towels
- paint
- water
- wipes
- smocks

Make mud

Place a foam plate for each child on a table covered with a plastic table cloth. Place a small amount of dirt on each

- foam plates
- plastic table cloth
- dirt
- water
- large craft sticks
- smocks

dirt on each plate. Pour water a little at a time on the dirt. Provide a smock and a large craft stick for each preschooler. Guide preschoolers to use their craft sticks to mix the dirt and water to create mud. Add more water as needed to adjust the consistency of the mud.

SAY • The people in today’s Bible story may have used mud to make bricks. God was not happy about the tower they were building. **God created people to give Him glory.** God said, “If they are doing this, they will keep thinking of more wrong things to do. They need to be stopped.” God mixed up their words. One day, Jesus will bring God’s people back together. People from every group and who use different words will worship Jesus together.

Review Game

- “Bible Story Review” printable
- lightweight medium-sized box
- tape
- inflatable game cube (optional)

Before the session, print the “Bible Story Review” printable. If you have an inflatable game cube, place the pictures in the pockets. If you do not have an inflatable game cube, tape each of the pictures to the side of a lightweight box. Direct the preschoolers to line up and invite the first preschooler in line to toss the cube. Encourage them to share one fact about the Bible story that coincides with the picture on top. Help preschoolers recall facts as need. End by reviewing today’s Bible story.

SAY • **God created people to give Him glory.** In today’s Bible story, the people chose to make themselves famous instead of God. They ignored God and did not do what He wanted them to do. God mixed up their words and spread out the people all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and who speak

different words will worship Him together.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve crackers and cheese spread for snack. Encourage preschoolers to construct a tower by layering crackers and cheese spread. Remind preschoolers how God mixed up the words of the people and spread them all over the earth. One day, Jesus will bring His people back together. People from every group and who use different words will worship Him together.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of a tower. Remind children that **God created people to give Him glory**. Our job is to show the world how awesome God is! One day all people from every group and language will worship Jesus together.

SAY • God, You created us to make You famous! Forgive us when we try to make ourselves famous instead. Cause us to show the world how great You are. Amen!

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*