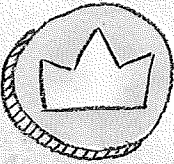


THE GOSPEL

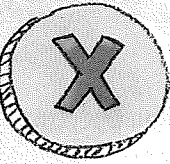
GOD'S PLAN for US

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.



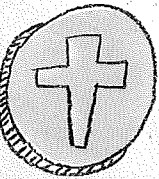
GOD RULES.

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.



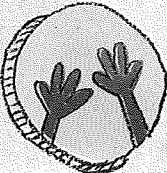
GOD PROVIDED.

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

Prepare videos

Assemble supplies

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.

Sing

Big Picture Question

Giant Timeline

Key Passage & Bible Skill

Bible Story

Discussion Starter



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.



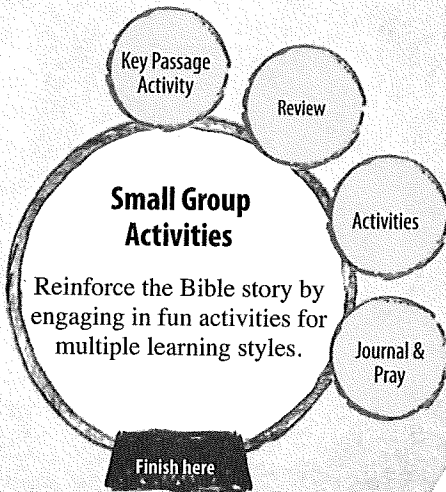
1 room

- 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 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.

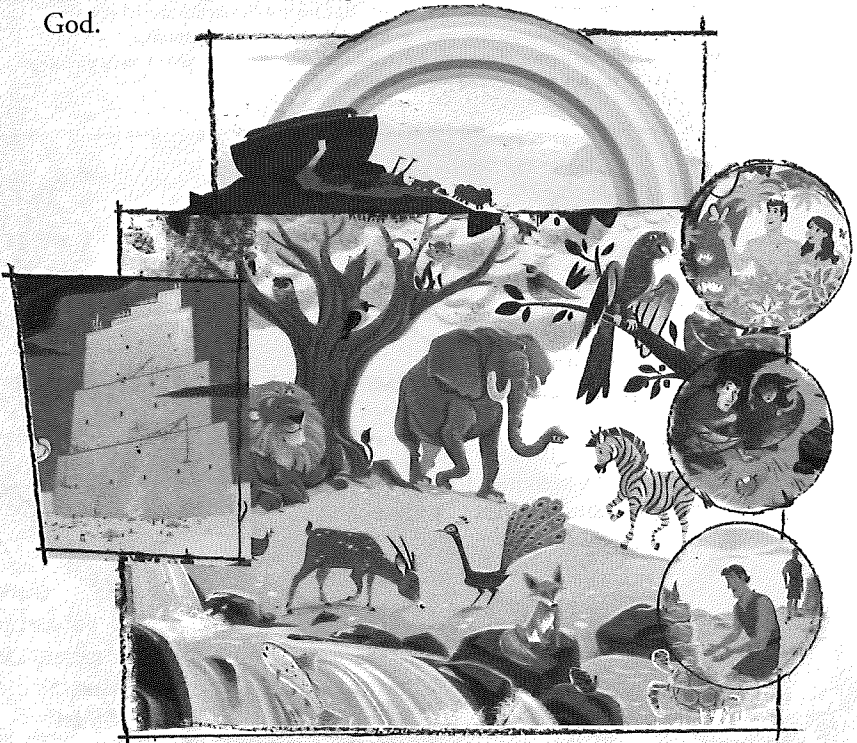
Unit Key Passage:

1 Corinthians 8:6

Big Picture Questions:

Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.

What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.



Unit 1: God the Creator

Session 1:

Bible Story:

God Created the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:1-25

Main Point:

God created everything for His glory.

Session 4:

Bible Story:

Cain and Abel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

Main Point:

Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Session 2:

Bible Story:

God Created People

Bible Passage:

Genesis 1:26-2:25

Main Point:

God created people in His own image; God created them male and female.

Session 5:

Bible Story:

Noah and the Ark

Bible Passage:

Genesis 6:5-9:17

Main Point:

God is holy, and He punishes sin.

Session 3:

Bible Story:

Sin Entered the World

Bible Passage:

Genesis 3:1-24

Main Point:

Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God.

Session 6:

Bible Story:

The Tower of Babel

Bible Passage:

Genesis 11:1-9

Main Point:

God created people to give glory to Him alone.

God Created the World

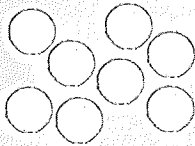
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 1:1-25

MAIN POINT: God created everything for His glory.

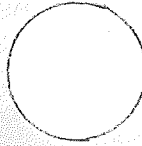
KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

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

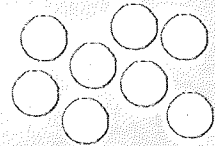
SMALL GROUP OPENING
(15–20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



LARGE BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 12



SMALL GROUP LEADER
(25–30 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)

God warned Cain about sin, and told him what he needed to do to be accepted. Then Cain and Abel went out into the field, and Cain killed Abel. God knew what Cain did, and He punished him. God sent Cain away from the land to wander the earth. Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Some time later, Eve gave birth to another son. She named this baby Seth. Seth was not the promised One either, but Jesus would come from Seth's descendants. (See Luke 3:23-38.)

As you teach, help kids develop an awareness of the deep effects of sin. Then point them to the future hope—the hope we now realize—in Jesus Christ. Generation after generation, God's people lived with an expectant hope. Could this son be the One? And for many generations, they faced the reality of sin. No one was good enough.

Every baby was born a sinner—like his parents and like Adam and Eve. Still, the people hoped. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners. (Heb. 11:13; Gal. 4:4) God always keeps His promises.



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

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

After **Adam and Eve** left the garden of Eden, they **had a son named Cain and another son named Abel**. Both Cain and Abel were sinners because of Adam and Eve's sin. **Abel became a shepherd, and Cain worked the ground** by growing plants and crops.

One day, Cain gave God an offering of some of the produce he grew. **Abel gave God some of the firstborn of his flock**. God accepted Abel's offering, but He did not accept Cain's offering.

Cain was furious. God asked Cain why he was so angry. God told Cain that if he would do what is right, his offering would be accepted. **God warned Cain that sin was crouching at the door, waiting to control Cain if he did not do what is right**.

"Sin wants to control you," God said. "But you must control it."

Then Cain invited Abel to go out into the field. While they were in the field, Cain killed his brother.

God asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?"

"I don't know," said Cain. "Is it my job to look after him?"

But **God knew what had happened. He said to Cain, "What have you done?"**

God punished Cain. God told Cain that he would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth. If Cain tried to work the ground, nothing would grow for him. Cain would not have a home; he would have nowhere to rest.

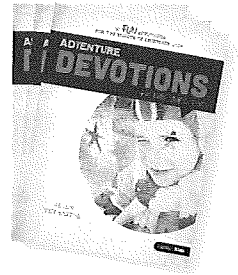
"This punishment is too much!" Cain said. "If I have

to leave this land and wander the earth, whoever finds me will kill me!”

So God put a mark on Cain to protect him so that whoever found him would not kill him. Then **Cain left the land and went to live in Nod**, a land to the east of Eden.

God gave Adam and Eve another son. They named him Seth. Adam and Eve’s family grew. Seth grew up and had a son named Enosh (EE nahsh). **Around this time, people began to call on the name of the Lord.**

Christ Connection: God had promised that one of Eve’s descendants would put an end to sin and death. Cain was not that descendant. He was sinful like his parents, Adam and Eve. So people kept living and trusting God to keep His promise. At just the right time, God would send His Son to save sinners. (Hebrews 11:13; Galatians 4:4)



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

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God kept His promise to give Eve a descendant who would destroy sin: Jesus. (Gal. 4:4) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Cain and Abel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

MAIN POINT: Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Welcome time

ARRIVING ACTIVITY: What's it like to move?

Guide kids to think about what it would be like to move to a new city away from the friends and family that they love. Allow a child who has moved to tell about her experience.

SAY • Moving away would probably be very difficult.

Leaving our friends and our family to start over somewhere else can be hard. In today's story, one person had to move away because of his sin. *What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.*

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

SAY • Each of the items on the page could be used to bring glory to God. And remember, *Why did God create the world? God created the world and everything in it for His glory.* In our story today, Cain and Abel brought an offering to God to bring Him glory. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. How do you think they could have used their jobs to give glory to God? We'll see what happens!

- "Offerings" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Job charades

Form two teams. Explain that teams will take turns sending one team member to draw a slip of paper. That team member will act out the job written on the paper for her team to guess. If they have not guessed correctly after 30 seconds, the other team may guess. The team with the most correct guesses wins!

SAY • You acted out each job so well! Today, we are going to learn about two brothers. One was a farmer and one was a shepherd. Each of them brought an offering to God. God accepted one of the sacrifices, but He didn't accept the other. Then one of the brothers sinned. We'll learn more about it in our story today!



- slips of paper
- marker

Jobs: ballerina, teacher, farmer, bus driver, writer, artist, doctor, shepherd, baseball player, photographer

OPTION 2: Separation toss

Guide kids to find a partner. Give each pair a foam ball. Each pair will toss a ball back and forth. If one person drops the ball, each kid must take a giant step back.

SAY • Each time someone dropped the ball, you and your partner became more and more separated. The Bible tells us that our sin separates us from God and from people. This separation isn't necessarily a physical separation, like being a few steps away in the same room. The Bible tells us that our sin keeps us from having a right relationship with God. Without Jesus, our sin would separate us from Him forever! In our story today, we will learn about a time when **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.**

- foam balls

Transition to large group

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. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

• Big Picture Question
Poster

LEADER • *What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.* Who were the first two people to sin? (*Adam and Eve*) Did sin stop with Adam and Eve? (*No, all people sin.*) The worst consequence of sin is that it separates people from God. Thankfully, God sent Jesus so that everyone who trusts Him would not be separated from God any longer.

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.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Cain and Abel

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 4:1-16,25-26

MAIN POINT: Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- large sheet of paper
- marker
- sticky notes

Write the key passage on a large sheet of paper. Guide kids to read it. Repeat it, covering a few words with sticky notes each time. Continue until all the words are covered and kids can recite the key passage from memory.

SAY • Great job! You guys have memorized our key passage, 1 Corinthians 8:6! Can someone explain the passage in their own words? God created all things, and He created us for His glory. All things were created through Jesus, and because of Jesus, we all may live forever with Him if we turn away from sin and trust in Him. Putting our trust in anything else to save us from our sins is pointless. Jesus has paid the price for sin so that we can be forgiven.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- slips of paper
- markers
- tape

Write the following questions on individual slips of paper and hide them around the room. Write each answer on a slip of paper and tape all answers to one area of a wall. Make duplicates or add other questions for larger groups.

1. Who were Adam and Eve's first sons? (*Cain and Abel, Gen. 4:1-2*)
2. What jobs did Cain and Abel have? (*Cain was a*


farmer and Abel was a shepherd, Gen. 4:2)

3. What did Cain and Abel bring to God as a sacrifice? (*Cain brought some of the produce he grew, and Abel brought the firstborn of his flock; Gen. 4:3-4*)
4. Whose offering did God accept? (*Abel's, Gen. 4:4-5*)
5. What did Cain do to Abel? (*Cain killed Abel, Gen. 4:8*)
6. What was Cain's punishment? (**Cain's sin separated him from God and people.** *He would spend the rest of his life wandering the earth. Nothing would grow for him; Gen. 4:11-12*)
7. How did God show mercy to Cain, even after his sin? (*God put a mark on Cain to protect him, Gen. 4:15*)
8. ***What is sin? Sin is breaking God's law, and sin separates people from God.***

Form two teams and explain that each team will send the first person to find a question hidden around the room. Each player may only bring back one question. Then the team must decide the answer to the question.

The next person in line will retrieve the answer and the team will tape the question and answer together to the wall near their team. The next person in line will go find another question, and the process will repeat. Review the questions and answers after all are found and taped together.

SAY • Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. We don't know exactly why God didn't accept Cain's offering, but we do know that he was jealous of Abel's offering being accepted. Cain killed Abel and faced tough consequences. **Cain's sin separated Him from God and people.**



LOW PREP

- paper
- permanent marker
- markers
- crayons

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: A new heart

For each child, use a permanent marker to draw a heart shape on a sheet of white paper. Ask kids to write or draw sins on the inside the heart shape. Ask them to make the inside of the heart shape as ugly as possible.

SAY • Cain's sin started with jealousy in his heart. Since sin first entered the world, everyone is born a sinner. God knew that people would sin, and He made a way for us to be forgiven. [*Give each child a new sheet of paper with a heart shape.*] God sent Jesus. When we love and trust Jesus, He makes our heart new so that we desire to honor God! He takes away all of our sin, and He gives us His Spirit so we can follow Him.

Cain's sin separated him from God and people.

Our sin separates us from God, too. Only through Jesus we can be made right with God.

OPTION 2: Confessing sins

SAY • What does it mean to confess sins? Why do we confess our sins if Jesus has already paid for them? Confessing sins means praying and telling God about what we have done that isn't pleasing to Him. He already knows those sins, but He wants us to pray and turn from those sins and turn to Him.

Take a sticky note. What sins have you committed that you need to tell God about? Write or draw them on the sticky side of the sticky note and stick them to the board. Don't worry; no one will see your sins.

Draw a cross on the board, and arrange all the sticky notes inside the cross shape. Explain that Jesus took the

- white board or poster board
- marker
- sticky notes
- pens or pencils

punishment for sin on the cross. Then take the notes off, tear them, and throw them away. Explain that Jesus paid for sin so that we would not have to. **Cain's sin separated him from God and people.** Our sin separates us from God and people too, but through Jesus we can be made right with God.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal. Explain that God wants us to give Him our very best. He deserves all the glory from our lives. This means that we show how awesome He is and show that we are thankful to Him with the way that we live. Instruct the kids to draw something that they can offer to God as a way to bring glory to Him. Writers can make a list of ways that they can bring God glory.

SAY • Cain and Abel brought offerings to God. We can offer our very best to God and give glory to Him with our lives. God can use what we are good at and the things that we have to show others how great He is! We can honor Him with our lives.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus as payment for sin so that we would not have to be separated from God forever. Pray for each child by name, asking God to show other kids how they might give Him glory with their lives.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids*