



Leader Guide

First Humans

October First Humans

Big Idea:

God is the creator of all things and created humans in His own image!

Scripture:

Genesis 1-3, Psalm 8

Memory Verse:

And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Genesis 2:3

[For older kids] When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet... Psalm 8:3-6

Story of God- Leader Info

Kids' City is changing up the lessons a little bit! We are starting on a journey together to understand the Story of God, and grow closer to Him and know Him better along the way! The lessons each week will now be chronological stories from the Bible told to the kids orally in a Story-formed way.

Stories are the most powerful form of communication we have. Stories speak to the mind, the body, and the emotions –our spirits. In a story, we can identify with situations we have never been in. Every culture and society of people that have ever existed has been this way. We are all storytellers and we all LOVE stories.

Jesus was a GREAT storyteller!

The disciples came up and asked, “Why do you tell stories?” Jesus replied, “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understanding flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That’s why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight.”
Matthew 13:10-13 (The Message)

What is ‘Narrative and Dialogical Teaching’ or Storying?

We use an approach to teaching biblical narratives and discussing them called Chronological Bible storying (CBS). It is often just called “Storying”. This is a method that was created by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptists. We have adapted and developed our stories and the corresponding dialogue to be effective in a current, and often “Western”, context. Storying includes a time of dialogue and discovery after telling each story. In the dialogue, the storyteller uses questions to guide listeners to discover the meaning and significance of the biblical story, and to lead participants to connect their own stories to the larger narrative.

Goals of Telling the Story

To understand, experience and intersect with God’s story.

To become a ‘story-formed’ kids and people whose lives are daily shaped by the truths of the Story.

To make disciples of Jesus who make disciples.

To see and experience God's "Redemptive Arc" throughout history as found in the Bible— seeing the connection between all of the stories— and seeing the Bible as one big story.

To be moved by a Story that points to a God who constantly pursues us and desires to know us.

To see the intersection of ours' and the kids' stories with God's Story.

To understand our identity differently in light of God's story, who he is, and who he created us to be.

To "live in the gospel", seeing the world differently, seeking to further God's Kingdom - to live missionally.

To become excited about the biblical narratives, reading and learning more about them in the Bible.

To learn to retell these stories and help others to see how they can find themselves in God's story.

Introduction in Small Groups

10 Minutes

Intro

Questions for the Kids about their week and to get them thinking about the lesson they will be going over.

1. What happened this past week that was really awesome?
2. What happened this past week that was a bummer?
3. What is your favorite thing that God created? (Ex. food, people, trees, beaches, etc.)

Expected Behaviors

Go over the Expected Behaviors for the kids while they are in small group before Large Group begins.

1. Be respectful of others
2. Only one student speaks at a time
3. Listen quietly when others are speaking
4. Keep hands and feet to yourself
5. Follow the directions given by your leaders

Large Group

25 Minutes

Game

Have the kids stand up and play a fun game of Simon says. Make the game interactive so that the kids will burn a little energy and have fun before the lesson begins! (Ex. Simon says to hop on one foot, Simon says to turn around three times, Simon says to do a jumping jack, etc.) You can relate back to the game later in the story by explaining how everything God spoke everything into creation and it happened right then!

Prayer and Offering

Pray for the kids as they begin a new lesson, and ask the kids if they have anything specifically they would like to pray about! Pray for their requests during the week. Collect the offering if the kids have

any, after the prayer.

Retell the Story from Last Week

Guide the children through the last story, The Beginnings. You will probably need to ask a few guiding questions such as...

What did God create in the story? (Everything- the angels and earth specifically)

What was the story about last week? (Lucifer and the fallen angels disobeying God)

What did we learn about God? (God is all powerful, God is an amazing creator—he made everything with his creativity, God is perfect, good, and right—he is holy, God is amazing and deserves to be worshipped, God knows all things. He knew what was in Lucifer’s heart, and which angels were following him.)

Ask if anyone remembers the memory verse from last week. Have them all repeat it together a couple of times.

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.”

Psalm 8:1

Tell the Story (Don’t just read it—know it and bring it to life!)

God decided he would create another being, one that was lower than the angels, called a human. So God prepared the earth to be a place for humans to live. His Spirit moved over the surface of the earth and whenever God wanted something to be made, he just said it and it was made... He made light—and...

Do you know what he called it? He called the light day.

What do you think he called darkness... He called the darkness night.

Then he made the sky.

He moved the waters back so that land appeared...

What do you think he called the waters? He called the waters seas.

He grew plants, flowers, and trees with seeds to reproduce themselves...

He created the sun, the moon and the stars—so that there would be days and different seasons

He filled the seas with fish, the sky with birds, and the earth with all kinds of wild animals!

All of this creating was very important to God! And he was very happy with it. In fact, after he created all these things, he looked at them and said, “This is good!”

After he had prepared the earth, God said, “Let us make humans in our image, to be like us. They will be in charge of the earth and the plants and the animals that live on it.” So God formed man from the dust of the ground. Then he breathed his own breath into him and he became alive. This man would be called Adam.

God placed Adam in a beautiful garden, a place where Adam had everything he needed to live the best kind of life. God planted all kinds of trees in the garden that produced delicious fruit so humans would always have lots to eat. God gave Adam the responsibility to take care of this garden and all of his creatures. God even brought all of the animals to Adam so he could give them names!

In the middle of the garden were two special trees—the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam he could eat fruit from any tree in the garden—except for one; God warned him, “If you eat fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, you will die for sure.” Then God said, “It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper for him.” So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While Adam was asleep, God took a rib out of Adam and made the rib into a woman. Adam later called this woman Eve, which means “Giver of Life”.

When this woman was made Adam said, “She is part of me.” So ever since then, when people get married, they become like one person. At that time, Adam and Eve were naked, but they felt no shame.

So God created both the man and the woman in his own image. God also gave Adam and Eve the ability to continue his creation by having children. God spent time with the humans, walking with them in the cool of the day. He showed them how to live in the best possible way—a life lived close to God and under his protection—a life that is full and complete.

As God looked over all of his creation he thought, “this is very good!”

After creating all of this, God rested on the seventh day, and he made it a special day for rest.

Small Groups

25 Minutes

As the children return to small groups have them sit in a circle so everyone can be seen and heard during the discussion time.

Retell the Story

This may seem redundant, but it is very effective in helping your kids remember and own the story. You will want to help them retell the story by giving them leading questions like: So, where did the story begin? What did God create? What did he put in the middle of the garden?

Dialogue

Remember **this is a dialogue, not a quiz**. The questions are a good start to draw out observations about the story, and the “answers” are just there to help you guide kids toward some key ideas.

1. What do we learn about God in this story?

- God is powerful and the creator of all things
- God showed the humans how to live in the best possible way.
- God trusts humans with the care of his creation.
- God provides and takes care of humans
- God enjoys his creation—he said it was good in every way!
- God sets aside time for rest!

2. How did God make humans different than the fish, birds and animals?

- They are created in God’s image. He breathed his own breath into them.
- He made man from the dust and woman from man’s rib
- He put them in charge of the earth and the animals
- God gives humans the ability to continue his creation by having children.

3. What kind of relationship did God have with humans?

- He spent time with Adam and Eve.
- He showed them the best possible way to live.
- He cared about them very much.

4. What kind of relationship did Adam and Eve have with each other?

They really knew each other and loved each other
They were very close

5. What do you think God gave them the two trees? What did God want them to do?

They could choose to obey God or not
God wanted them to choose to obey—to choose Life (the Tree of Life)

6. Why does God rest?

He is finished with his work—he didn't need to create anymore
He is very happy with what he made—it was very good

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

7. What do you like best about the story and why?
8. What do you think God wants us to do?

Activity

Pass out the blank book marks to each of the children. Have them look up the memory verse in their Bibles and write the memory verse on the book mark and then draw something from the creation story on there. Encourage the kids to memorize the verse this week and use the bookmark for their Bible or another book!

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud, play Simon Says again, or there are word searches and color sheets that the children can color on.