



Leader Guide

Law & Commands

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Story of God- Leader Info

Big Idea:

God loves us and wants us to be obedient and love Him with all of our heart, mind, and strength.

Scripture:

Exodus 16-34,
Deuteronomy 4-7

Memory Verse:

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5

For the LORD your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.
Deuteronomy 4:31

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)

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

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. Have you ever disobeyed your parents knowing what you were doing was wrong?

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

Game

Have the kids play a game of Simon Says to get them up on their feet and moving before the lesson begins.

Prayer, Offering, and Communion

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. For the kids that have been baptized they can take communion at this time. Explain to the children that communion is a time for us to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross and thank Him for all He has done for us!

Review the Story from Last Week

Review the last stories a bit, focusing more on the most recent story, Passover.

What patterns do you notice about God in these stories?

How has God continued to keep his promises through the story of Joseph?

What did God call himself in the story of Moses and what does that tell us about him?

What does Passover mean?

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

It wasn't long after the Israelites left Egypt that they began complaining again to Moses. They complained about not having enough to eat and not having water to drink. They kept nagging at him, "Why did you make us leave Egypt? We had plenty to eat and drink there. Did you lead us into the wilderness to die?"

Moses cried out to God, "What am I going to do with these people? They're about to kill me!"

So each time the Israelites ran out of food or water God provided for them through a miracle; he sent birds to their camp for them to eat, he covered the ground with a flaky bread-like food, and he even made water pour out of a rock for them to drink!

Two months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites set up camp at the bottom of Mount Sinai. Moses climbed up the mountain so he could meet with God.

There, God spoke to him saying, "Tell my people this, 'You saw how I carried you on eagles' wings and rescued you from Egypt. Now if you obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured people—a kingdom of priests—set apart to represent me.'"

When Moses came down the mountain he told the people what God said. They all agreed, "We will do everything that God asks us to do. Really, everything."

Then God told Moses, "Gather the Israelites at the bottom of the mountain so I can speak to them. As the people gathered, God warned them, "Do not climb the mountain or even touch the edge or you will be put to death."

Right then, a powerful storm rolled in and a dark cloud covered the mountain. Then God spoke to them from a blazing fire on top of the mountain giving these commands: "I am your God who rescued you from slavery in Egypt. Put me above everything else. Do not worship other things. Do not misuse or disrespect my name. Remember to set aside a day each week to rest and worship me. Honor your parents. Don't murder or steal or lie. Do not sleep with anyone but your husband or wife—be faithful. Don't lust after what others have—be satisfied with what I give you."

As God spoke, the people trembled with fear and moved away from the mountain! Moses told them, "Don't be afraid, God is showing you his awesome power. From now on let your fear of him keep you from sinning!"

As the people stood in the distance, Moses climbed back up into the dark clouds where God was. Up on the mountain God gave Moses more instructions, called laws, to give to Israel. These laws gave specific details about things like... How to treat neighbors and enemies, how to handle conflicts, what is fair punishment, when to work and rest, when to celebrate and worship, and what offerings are acceptable to God.

Another time Moses went up on the mountain for 40 days and 40 nights with his helper Joshua. And God gave Moses two stone tablets. On these tablets were the details of the covenant written by God's finger!

While Moses was away on the mountain, the people went to his brother Aaron and said, "We don't know what happened to Moses. Make us a god that we can see who will lead us!"

So Aaron created an idol in the shape of a golden calf and put it on an altar for them to worship. He told them, "Here is the god that saved you from Egypt!" The next day the people had a wild party as they worshipped the gold calf.

When God saw how the Israelites were acting he said to Moses, "I have seen enough of these peoples' stubbornness and rebellion. I am going to destroy all of them with fire and create a new nation from your children."

But Moses begged God not to kill them, and God withdrew his threat allowing them to live.

When Moses returned to camp and saw the people worshipping the calf, he was so angry that he smashed the stone tablets on the ground! Then he took the calf, ground it up into powder, mixed it with water, and made the people drink it! The next day Moses returned to the mountain to ask God to forgive his people.

God responded, “Whoever has sinned against me must be punished.” And God sent a plague to punish those who had worshipped the calf. About 3,000 of the Israelites died from this plague. (Pause)

Soon after that God also said to Moses, “I am full of mercy and grace. I am slow to get angry and full of love and faithfulness. I show my love by forgiving rebellion and sin, but I will not let sin go unpunished. This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel: I will show my awesome power through you and remove those who oppose you, but you must always listen to me and obey my commands.”

Moses met with God for another 40 days and 40 nights. And God wrote on a new set of tablets the details of how to live in the covenant. Moses gave these tablets to the people of Israel so that they could follow them and live in his ways and enjoy his blessings.

Small Groups

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 were some of the instructions and laws that God told Moses to share with the people? Why was Moses so upset with the people when he came down off the mountain?

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 is a covenant?

A promise

2. What was the covenant that God was talking about? Who was it given to first?

3. Do you think the Israelites could keep their side of the covenant? How?

4. Would God remove his covenant if they did not obey him?

Partially—he may not bless them and protect them, but ultimately he chooses to save them to show how great he is, not always basing this on how sinful they are.

5. What is the purpose of the Commandments and Laws? Why do you think God is so specific about these things?

6. Which of these commandments do you think is the hardest to keep?

You may want to ask some specific questions about each of the commandments

7. What do God’s Commandments and Laws show us about him?

8. What happens when we follow in God’s ways? Where have you seen this in the stories?

God’s people must live a certain way to reflect the character of the holy God.

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

9. What questions do you have about the story?

10. What will you remember most about this story?

11. How does this story make a difference in your life?

12. How do you figure out the right way to live? What happens when we are left to figure this out for ourselves?

13. What rules do you have a hard time following? Why?

14. When are rules good or helpful?

Activity

There is a list of the Ten Commandments to give to the kids that you can talk with them through. Also, open up the Bibles to Deuteronomy 6 and read the Shema, verses 4-9 and talk to the kids about how it is important to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to think about him all throughout our day. There is a coloring sheet and maze for the kids to do after that.

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud.