



Leader Guide

Beginnings

October The Beginnings

Big Idea:

God is the creator of all things and good and perfect and holy

Scripture:

Genesis 1-3, Psalm 8, Job 38, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Revelation 12

Memory Verse:

“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.”
Psalm 8:1

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 paper, rock, scissors. The kids that lose will sit down each time and the other kids will stand up and play each other. The kids can play several times and with other variations such as Bear, Fish, and Tornado where the bear eats the fish, the tornado destroys the bear, and the fish wins over the tornado- and make up the hand signals. This game is meant to be fun and interactive so that the kids will not be bouncing off the walls for the story!

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! Collect the offering if the kids have any, after the prayer.

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

I’d like to tell you a story. This story is about a being called God, who has always existed. This story, found in the Bible, describes God as the creator of all things, the heavens and the earth and everything that is alive. God

is also described as the only one who always does what is good and right and perfect—the Bible uses the word “holy” to describe him.

Do you know what God created first?

In the Bible, God asked a man named Job, “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Who decided it’s size and shape? Who measured it? What was it set up on, or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

The story begins like this...

When God set the foundations of the earth, the angels were already there watching—the angels were created before everything else. When the angels saw God’s power and his ability to make so many different things, they sang together and shouted for joy, giving glory to God!

There was one angel who was the most beautiful of all the angels. This angel was named Lucifer, which means “bright morning star”. When Lucifer saw the other angels singing songs to God and shouting great things about God, he became jealous – he wanted them to do that for him instead of for God – and he said in his heart, “I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars... and I will be like God.”

Then Lucifer went and convinced a third of the angels to follow him. Although Lucifer had seen God’s power in creation, he continued to lead the fallen angels, who are also called demons, in a rebellion against God.

All rebellion against God and his ways is called sin. But God knew what Lucifer was thinking and doing because he knows everything. Because of God’s perfect goodness, evil is never allowed to remain in his presence. So God showed his disapproval of Lucifer and his followers by casting them down to the earth. Lucifer’s name also changed—instead of being known as the bright morning star, he was now known as Satan, which means “adversary” (one who is against someone else)—and Satan is against God.

This is the story that we call “**Beginnings**”.

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 the 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 first? How do we know that? What happened next? How did the angels respond to God’s creation? Did they all respond the same way? How did Lucifer respond?

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 did God create in this story?

God created everything—the earth and the angels are mentioned specifically.

2. What was the angels’ relationship with God like?

The angels were amazed by God and got to be with him as he created.

3. Who are Lucifer and the demons and where did they come from?

They are angels created by God.

4. Who is stronger, God or the angels and demons? Why?

God is stronger because he made the angels

5. How did Lucifer challenge God?

He said he would be like God.

He deceived a third of the angels to follow him.

6. God cast Lucifer and the fallen angels out of heaven. Why do you think he did this?

God will never allow evil to remain in his presence.

God punishes evil.

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

When your kids answer, ask them: **Where in the story did you see this?**

God is 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.

Application (Optional questions that may help apply the story)

8. What do you like best about the story and why?

9. What questions do you have about the story?

10. Have you ever wanted to be in charge of something and weren't – what did you do?

11. How are we like Lucifer/Satan?

12. How can we be more like the angels?

Activity

Pass out the color sheets for the kids about creation. Have them practice reciting the memory verse for the week as they color!

Extra Time Activities

If there is extra time, have the kids look up the passages from the story and read them out loud, or play the paper, rock, scissor game again.