

God's Good News

Be Part of the Story

Character Trait: Love

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that sin broke God's perfect world, but God sent Jesus into the world to help us.
- Children will identify ways that God has shown His love for us.
- Children will discuss ways they can choose to love others that show they know God.

Supplies:

- *God's Good News* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A paper plate *(one for each child)*
- A cross *(cut out of paper, one for each child)*
- Photocopied cutouts of the world *(one for each child, optional)*
- Coloring supplies
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you love to hear stories. Raise your hand if you have ever heard a family member or a friend tell a story about you. *(Tell the children to put their hands down.)*

Today, we will learn more about God's big story; this is the story of His great love for each of us and how we can be a part of it!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did John see in the vision God gave him?** *(A new heaven and earth and a new Jerusalem)*
- **What did God say would be gone forever in the new heaven and earth?** *(God said there would be no more tears, pain, or death.)*
- **Who did God promise this new heaven and earth to?** *(To His children, those who are faithful to Him)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *God's Good News* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- In the beginning, God made everything!
- He made it perfect.
- He made us, too, in His image.
- He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.
- Sadly, Adam and Eve disobeyed God.
- That sin brought death into the world and broke our relationship with God.
- It also broke God's perfect world.

- Sin spread throughout the whole world.
- Everyone sins, and the result of sin is death.
- But sin couldn't stop God from loving us. He had a plan!
- Because of His love for us, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world.
- Sin broke our relationship with God, but Jesus came to fix it!
- Jesus healed sick people and performed many other miracles!
- He welcomed lonely people.
- He taught people about God's love.
- His perfect life shows us what love looks like.
- Even though Jesus never sinned, He died on a cross for our sins because He loves us.
- By doing this, He was carrying out God's plan to fix our relationship with Him.
- Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead, breaking the power of sin and death!
- He spent time with His followers, teaching them.
- Then He returned to Heaven.
- Now Jesus lives forever!
- Jesus did not leave us alone.
- He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside everyone who trusts Him.
- The Spirit gives us power to live the way God created us to live.
- One day, when Jesus returns, God will make everything perfect again.
- He will make a New Heaven and a New Earth.
- Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him, forever!
- God loves you.
- He created you one-of-a-kind!
- Trusting and following Jesus fixes our broken relationship with God!
- Are you ready to be a part of God's story?

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **In the beginning, how did God make everything?** *(Perfect)*
- **What broke God's perfect world and our relationship with Him?** *(Sin)*
- **What is the result of sin?** *(Death)*
- **Who did God send into the world to help us?** *(Jesus)*
- **What did Jesus do? How did Jesus save us?** *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus taught people how to live God's way, He performed miracles, He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins, and He came back to life.)*
- **Where is Jesus now?** *(Jesus returned to heaven and is there now.)*
- **Did Jesus leave us all alone?** *(No. He sent the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.)*
- **Who will live in the new heaven and the new earth with Jesus forever in the future?** *(Everyone who trusts in Jesus)*
- **Can you be certain that you will be there with Jesus in the future? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary. After this question, ask the children if any of them would like to receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness now. Then, lead the children who express interest in a short prayer of salvation (such as the one provided at the end of lesson #33, A Happy Sunday.)*

SAY: Today, we still live in a very broken and hurting world. Trusting in Jesus does not mean we will not experience the effects of sin all around us. However, we have the hope of eternal life in God's brand, new creation and enjoy having a personal relationship with Him now. This began when we put our trust and faith in Jesus and turned from our sins. Our relationship will grow through prayer, learning about Him and His teachings in the Bible, and following Jesus' example of how we should live according to His will.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. He sent God's Holy Spirit to be with us and help us live the way God wants us to. We also have God's Word, the Bible. We can read it to learn more about God's Big Story, His love, and His plan for our lives.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

For this is how God *(point both hands up)* **loved the world** *(cross arms over your chest)*:
He gave his one and only Son *(hold one finger up and move forward)*,
so that everyone *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
who believes *(bring hands together in heart shape)* **in him**
will not perish *(hang head)* **but have eternal life** *(raise hands up toward heaven)*.

John 3:16 (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Designate one area *(or corner of the room)* as "true" and another area *(or corner)* as "false." Explain that you will make statements about the Bible story. The children are to run to the area *(or corner)* based on whether the statement is "true" or "false." For statements that are false, call on a volunteer to point out *(or correct)* what was false. Use the statements below or make up your own:

- **In the beginning, the world was already filled with sin and hurt.** *(False)*
- **Even though we sin, God still loves us.** *(True)*
- **God did not have a plan to fix what sin has broken.** *(False)*
- **Jesus cares about us.** *(True)*
- **Jesus broke the power of sin and death by dying on the cross and then coming back to life three days later.** *(True)*
- **The hurt and hardships we experience today are forever.** *(False)*
- **Everyone who trusts in Jesus will live with Him forever in the future!** *(True)*



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a large paper plate and coloring supplies. Tell them to draw a picture of the world in the middle of the plate. Next, provide each child with a cross cut out of brown paper. Instruct them to glue the cross on top of their drawing.

For younger children...
Simplify this activity for younger children by providing a photocopied cutout of the world to glue to their plates and color.

For older children...
Extend this activity for older children by instructing them to write the memory verse along the outer edge of their plate.

Character Trait: Love

(10 minutes)

SAY: God's Word, the Bible, tells us about God's big story. It is the story of God's great love for us all.

Encourage the children to think more about love by asking the following:

- **What is love? What does it look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include being patient, kind, considerate, committed, and humble. Love means putting the needs and desires of others before our own.)*
- **What is the opposite of love? What does it look like?** *(Answers will vary but should include hate, violence, pride, selfishness, and greed.)*
- **What are some ways that God has shown His love for us?** *(Answers will vary but should include by creating us in His image, desiring to have a relationship with us, and by sending Jesus into the world to help us.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: The Bible tells us that **"anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love"** (1 John 4:8 NLT). What are some ways we can choose to love others that show we know God? *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud; then provide an opportunity for those who did not share to do so with those around them.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: God's Word, the Bible, is another wonderful gift He has provided for all of us! The Bible is a record of God's big story. It tells of His love for each of us, how Jesus gave His life to take the punishment for our sins, and shares the promise of a wonderful, new creation still to come! When we choose to place our trust in Jesus, we become part of God's big story, too.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for the promise of a wonderful future forever with You.
Thank You for the presence of Your Holy Spirit inside of me today.
Help me to remember all that You have already done and the all that You will do in the future.
Amen.

Notes