

April 11th and 12th

Bible Passage: Genesis—Revelation

(Easter)

The Big God Story

REMEMBER VERSE

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
Psalm 145:8

Schedule

1. DISCOVER : Big God Story
2. RESPOND : Worship Response, Small Group Questions and Optional Activities
3. BLESS : Speaking God's Truth over your child

Supplies

- Cardboard Box, Paper, Construction paper, or White Board
- Markers (red, blue, green, yellow, black) or dry erase markers (if using a white board)
- Flashlight
- Tent (if available)
- Sheets
- White Cloth
- Crescent Rolls
- Marshmallows
- Cinnamon or other spice
- Bible

DISCOVER // Big God Story

PREPARE AHEAD

For this week's storytelling you will use markers or dry erase markers (if using a white board) to illustrate The Big God Story on a cardboard box, paper, white board, or construction paper as your family creates a timeline. This story time will be an interactive time with your children, as you illustrate His Story.

SET UP

Create an area to draw on using a large cardboard box, paper taped together, white board or some other type of material to draw the timeline. Draw a straight line at the bottom of the box or paper (to make a timeline) with a black marker or dry erase marker if using a whiteboard. Place a flashlight at the front of the room. Set the markers on the ground near your drawing area.

RELATE

Lead your children in a prayer to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds. Begin to tell the following story to your children, as you illustrate it throughout the storytelling time. (Your children can help you illustrate the story and make the timeline)

The Big God Story began in a beautiful garden called Eden. Take a green marker and draw a few tree- and bush-like shapes on the timeline. **God created the first people, Adam and Eve, to be in relationship with Him and to live in this garden with the animals.** Take a yellow marker and draw a sun in the upper-left corner. **Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, and their sin destroyed their relationship with God. They had to leave the garden.** Take a black marker and draw a large "X," slightly tipped to the left, over the trees/bushes. **But God promised that one day a Redeemer would come to restore the relationship between people and God.** Use a black pen or marker to turn the "X" into a cross.

After many, many years, the world became so evil that God decided to destroy all living things in a flood—all except Noah, his family, and at least two of every animal. Use a blue marker to draw rain coming down from the top of the paper toward "Noah" on the timeline. **They survived the flood inside an ark, and after the water went down, God promised Noah to never again destroy all living things with a flood.** Use red, yellow, green, and blue markers to draw a large rainbow.

Noah's family filled the earth, and from them came a man named Abraham. Abraham also received a very special promise from God! Invite your children to turn to Genesis 17:6–8 in their Bibles. **God told Abraham, "I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you ... The whole land of Canaan**

... I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God” (vv. 6–8). Use a red marker to draw several stick figures and write “Abraham.” This nation would be called Israel. Also, the Redeemer, whom God had promised hundreds of years earlier, would come from Abraham’s family line.

Abraham and his wife, Sarah, waited 25 years for God to fulfill His promise to give them a child to keep their family line going. Finally, God gave them a son named Isaac. When Isaac grew up, he had a son named Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel. Then Jacob, or Israel, had 12 sons. Take a black marker and write “12” above the name “Jacob.”

One of Jacob’s sons, Joseph, was sold into slavery by his brothers and taken to Egypt. In Egypt God allowed Joseph to rise to power under Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Eventually, Joseph’s family moved to Egypt because God gave Joseph the ability to keep his family alive during a seven-year famine, when there wasn’t much food to eat. Use a yellow marker to draw lines coming up from “Joseph” to look like grain. Later, the Egyptians forced the Israelites into slavery. The Israelites cried out to God and begged Him to save them.

God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When they traveled in the wilderness toward the Promised Land, God made a covenant with Moses and His people. Invite your children to turn to Exodus 19:5. God said, “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.” God gave the people the Law to show them how to live. Take a blue marker and, above “Moses,” draw two vertical rectangles with arched tops to look like two tablets.

Even so, the Israelites grumbled and complained. They didn’t trust God. Because of this, the people spent the next 40 years wandering in the wilderness. During this time, a new generation grew up with a new respect for God and His power. After Moses died, these people were led by a man named Joshua. Finally, after years of battle, God conquered the Promised Land that He had set aside for His people.

The Israelites settled down to raise families. During this time, God gave the Israelites leaders called judges. The Israelites went through a cycle of being faithful to God, then disobeying Him, then returning to Him, then disobeying Him—over and over again. This time of the judges lasted for more than 450 years until the people cried out for a king because they wanted to be like the countries around them. God gave them the kind of king they wanted, and this king followed God for a time but eventually turned his back on God. God rejected him for his pride and disobedience. Then God anointed David as the second king. Use a yellow marker to draw a crown above “David.” God made a covenant with David and promised that the Redeemer, the Son of God would come to save. Use a red marker to draw a cross above the crown.

David had a son named Solomon who became king and was the wisest man ever to live. Use a black marker to draw a simple structure above the name “Solomon.” Solomon built the temple for God at Jerusalem, but eventually his heart became divided, and he allowed worship of false gods. Later, God allowed the nation of Israel to split into two nations. The north was Israel, but the south was Judah. The promised Redeemer, Jesus, would be born out of Judah.

Hundreds of years later, something strange happened. *Dim the ceiling lights and turn on the flashlight.* God was silent. He was still working and moving in the lives of His people, but He chose not to speak through prophets or judges for 400 years— or until the beginning of the New Testament. *Turn on the lights and turn off the flashlight.* Write on your timeline 400 years of waiting. Use a blue marker to draw a horizontal line above “400 Years of Waiting.”

In the first pages of Matthew and Luke, we see that the promise God made in the garden (refer back to the cross on the left side) and the promise He made to David (refer to cross in the middle) remained true for thousands of years! And in a small town called Bethlehem, the Redeemer, Jesus, was born! Encourage your children to clap, cheer, and celebrate.

When Jesus was 30 years old, He began His ministry. He called 12 men to be His disciples, cared for the poor, healed the sick, raised the dead, and saved the outcast. Jesus never, ever sinned. But, after three years, He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, once and for all. Write the name JESUS on your timeline. Use a black marker to draw a large cross above “Jesus.” Use a red marker to draw a red heart around the cross.

The story gets even better: Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! Use a yellow marker to draw rays fanning out from the cross above “Jesus.” God’s love is so powerful that His love conquered death! After Jesus returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside everyone who chooses to trust and obey Him. The Holy Spirit gives us power to live for Jesus and play our part in The Big God Story. One day Jesus will return to earth to make everything new, and He will rule forever and ever! Use a yellow marker to draw a large crown over “Our Future with Jesus” and color it.

Parents: Maybe you could tell your children a personal story of how you became a follower of Jesus.

RESPOND // Worship as Response

This time allows kids to respond to God, through prayer and various ways of reflection.

There are 4 Worship Responses – Curriculum will change weekly; Mission, Gratitude and Identity, will repeat weekly. Your family can go through all of them or one of them. You could even spread them out throughout the week. You can choose how to go about these different “stations”, whether you do them all as a family, or individually, allowing everyone to respond in their own way. Whatever way you choose, we strongly encourage parents and guardians to take part in the worship response (whether with your child or on your own) to be an example for them.

At church, we like to play soft worship music during Worship Response. If you would like to do the same, we've created a playlist for you to use at home! Click [here](#) to access our [Worship playlist](#).

Curriculum – The Big God Story

SUPPLIES

- Ice cubes (atleast 1 per person)
- Medium-sized bowl
- Long spoon
- Worship music

PREPARE AHEAD

Fill the bowl halfway with wam/hot water and set aside. Open the worship playlist listed above (in the orange box) and be prepared to play the song Glorious Day.

RELATE

We just heard The Big God Story from beginning to end, and it all points to God's Son, Jesus! God had a plan all along to send Jesus to earth to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins and make the way for us to be in relationship with Him.

Maybe you already know all of these things and believe. But there are many who do not know Jesus yet. Jesus came to save all of us and bring us into relationship with Him forever. He loves each and every one of us *that* much.

Have the children close their eyes and read this over them. **Romans 10:9** says, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Give them a few minutes to think about this verse. Take a moment to discuss the verse as a family if you feel so led. Then share with your child that if they believe in their hearts Jesus is Lord but haven't already entered into relationship with Him, they can pray to do just that right now.

Now, bring out the bowl of water. **The Bible says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our [sins] from us" (Psalm 103:12). That is really far! This means that when we trust in Jesus and confess our sins, He takes them away from us.**

Pass out the ice cubes. Encourage everyone to think of sins (lying, stealing, being mean to someone, etc.) they want Jesus to take away. Then have the kids drop their ice cubes into the water, stir them with the spoon and watch them dissolve.

This is a symbol of what Jesus did for you and me: He dissolved our sins, they are forgotten and forgiven! In return, He gives us joy. He made a way for us to have a relationship with God. He gave us eternal life. This is the Good News, the BEST news – let's celebrate! *TECH: Play the song Glorious Day and sing and dance with your kids to celebrate the fact that we're all a part of God's story. Let the playlist continue playing if you want to keep the party going!*

Mission

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL – Each campus has their own Compassion friend that we pray for and support. Ask your Elementary child to share what they know about their Compassion kid and spend time praying for them as a family. *You can also pray for different missions at Woodmen, in Colorado Springs and around the world!*

FEEDING FAMILIES – Through ACTS Ministry, we collect non-perishable food items to give to people in our very own city. During this time of isolation, we do have bins set up at Rockrimmon and Woodmen Heights, so people can continue to drop off food for ACTS Ministry.

For these last two worship response "stations", give each child a notebook, so they can respond by writing or drawing their thoughts. If you do not have notebooks available, with supplies around your house, let your kid(s) create their own notebook.

Gratitude

What am I grateful for this week / today?

Identity

1. What is one fact I know to be true about God?
2. What does God think of me? Who does He say I am?
3. Who is God to me?

// Small Group Questions

This time allows kids to open their Bibles, read the suggested passages and recap what they've learned in today's lesson.

Encourage your child to open his Bible and read the suggested passages.

Questions for Younger Kids

- **What is something you really liked about The Big God Story?**
- **How does it feel to know you're a part of The Big God Story?**
- **Who is the promised Redeemer?** Luke 1:67–69; Galatians 3:13
- **What did Jesus do to redeem the world?** Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18
- **Have you asked Jesus to be your Redeemer? If not, would you like to?**

Questions for Older Kids

- **What stood out to you in The Big God Story?**
- **How does it feel to know you're a part of The Big God Story?**
- **How did the relationship between God and the Israelites show how much God loves the people He created?** Genesis 6:18; 17:7; 2 Samuel 7:23; Isaiah 48:17
- **How does the promised Redeemer fit into The Big God Story?** Genesis 3:15; 12:3; 2 Samuel 7:13–16; Matthew 27—28
- **What is a redeemer? What does it mean to redeem?**
- **Who is the promised Redeemer?** Luke 1:67–69; Galatians 3:13
- **What did Jesus do to redeem the world?** Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18
- **Have you asked Jesus to be your Redeemer? If not, would you like to?**

// Optional Activities

Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.

Activity 1 :

As a family create and decorate an empty tomb that your children can walk into in one of your rooms in your home. Since Easter is about celebrating The Resurrection, your family can create a “He is Risen” area in your home.

First, set up a tent or use some sheets to create a tomb, or a cave. Allow your children to be creative with whatever supplies you have in your home to make the tomb. Your children can search your home to find some white cloth or clothes to symbolize Jesus' burial clothes and place them inside the tomb.

After creating the tomb talk with your children about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Ask your children to explain why there are only white linens left in the tomb. The tomb was empty, because Jesus was not there. He is alive. He is risen. He has conquered sin and death for all of us. He is the Savior!!!

Activity 2 :

Celebrate Easter with your family by making Resurrection Rolls. Gather your ingredients. Simple recipe: Crescent Rolls, Marshmallows, Cinnamon

Gather your family around the kitchen and read John 19.

Unroll the crescent rolls. Make sure that you separate each of the sections. Explain that the sections are like the linen that they wrapped Jesus in. Give your child a marshmallow and explain that it represents Jesus. Jesus is white, pure, and He never sinned. Roll the marshmallows in the cinnamon to represent the spices that were used to prepare Jesus' body. Wrap the crescent roll around the marshmallow and secure tightly. This represents how they wrapped Jesus' body. Place the rolls in the oven and cook according to the directions on the package of rolls. The oven represents the tomb. After the rolls are cooked open the tomb and remove the rolls. After the rolls are cool enough to handle, ask your children to open one up and look inside the roll. What happened!! The marshmallow is gone!! This represents how Jesus is resurrected!!!!

BLESS //

Children receive a blessing from you. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide your child.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

As you bless your kids, tell them they have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely share the joy and love they have received from God.

Open a Bible and read 1 John 4:9–12:

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.